Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-238
Tuesday
12 December 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-238 *12 December 1995*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Reasons for Syrian-Iraqi Rapprochement Viewed *[AL-BILAD 13 Dec]* 1
Sudanese-Libyan Ties With Hamas Alleged *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 20 Oct]* 1

Islamic Affairs

OIC Ministerial Summit Continues in Guinea 4
Guinea President's Opening Speech *[Conakry Radio]* 4
No Stand Taken on Nigeria *[Libreville Radio]* 4
India in 'Occupied Kashmir' Criticized *[Islamabad Radio]* 5
Reinforcing Bosnia Defense Urged *[IRNA]* 5
Jordan Minister on Peace Commitment *[Amman Radio]* 5
Guinea President, Syria's al-Shar' Meet *[Damascus Radio]* 5
Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 3 Dec 6

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinians Take Control of Nabulus *[Jericho VOP]* 8
Officers Arrive in Ramallah To Prepare Takeover *[Jericho VOP]* 8
'Arafat Reportedly To Attend PA-Hamas Meetings *[AL-NAHAR 10 Dec]* 8
'Arafat Receives Hamas Delegation in Gaza *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Hamas Vows To Continue 'Armed Struggle' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 9
'Arafat, Polish Minister Discuss Joint Ventures *[Jericho VOP]* 9
PLO's Abu-Mazin on Charter, Jerusalem, Refugees *[AL-AHRAM 6 Dec]* 10
PA Official: PA To 'Strike Hard' Law Violators *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11
Sha'th, French Officials Sign Cooperation Accord *[Jericho VOP]* 11
Quray' Criticizes Israeli Ban of Jerusalem Meeting *[Jericho VOP]* 11
Hizballah, Jihad Leaders Pledge To Continue Jihad *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Dec]* 11
Editorial Voices Optimism About Peres-Clinton Talks *[AL-NAHAR 10 Dec]* 12

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

President, FIS Representatives Said To Meet *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Dec]* 13
FIS Confirms Killing of Two FIS Leaders *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Dec]* 14
FIS Renews Attacks on GIA After Murders *[London AL-HAYAH 11 Dec]* 14
FIS Fighters Drive GIA out of Eastern Region *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Dec]* 14
Prime Minister Urges Citizens to Work for Peace *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Prosecution Office on Measures Against Editor *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Crackdown on Journalists Said Due To 'Clan War' *[Paris International]* 16

Egypt

Mubarak on Terrorism, Peace, Vote on U.S. Embassy *[MENA]* 16

Mubarak Issues Decree Appointing Parliamentarians *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Musa, Japan's Envoy Discuss Investment, Peace *[MENA]* 17
Musa Notes Need for Bosnia Aid, Heads for Paris *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Musa Marks World Human Rights Day, Discusses Bosnia *[MENA]* 17
Human Rights Activist Summoned for Interrogation *[AL-'ARABI 6 Dec]* 18
Embassy Rejects Newspaper Report On Hit-Squads *[London INDEPENDENT 7 Dec]* 19
U.S. Ambassador Denies Protesting Election Outcome *[MENA]* 19
Papers Discuss Post-Election Issues, Opposition *[MENA]* 20
IMF Official: 'No Economic Reasons' To Devalue Currency *[MENA]* 20
Denmark To Extend 80 Million Kroner in Aid *[MENA]* 21
Daily Criticizes Russian-Israeli Military Cooperation *[MENA]* 21

Libya

Head of UK Interest Section To Be Expelled *[Tripoli TV]* 21
U.S. Said 'Nose-Sticking' in Egypt's Affairs *[JANA]* 21
Association Condemns 'Unjust Measures' by UN *[JANA]* 21

Morocco

14 Indicted for Algerian Islamic Arms Trafficking *[Paris International]* 22
Opposition Leader Calls For Political Reforms *[MAP]* 22

Sudan

Iraqi Planes Reportedly Release Napalm in South *[Voice of the People]* 22
Group Urges Intervention, Release of Prisoners *[MENA]* 22

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Oman

Qabus Receives U.S. Vice President's Message *[WAKH]* 23

Saudi Arabia

Defense Ministry Denies Incident on Yemeni Border *[SPA]* 23

Yemen

Egypt Envoy Denies Teams To Liquidate Terrorists *[MENA]* 23
Interview With Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ghani *[AL-THAWRAH 14 Oct]* 23

IRAQ

Columnist Analyzes Clinton's Bosnia Decision *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 29 Nov]* 29
Paper: Clinton, Bush 'Human Rights Abusers' *[INA]* 30
Tariq 'Aziz Arrives in New York To Visit UN *[INA]* 31
Airspace 'Violations' Protested to Arab League *[INA]* 31
Relations With Egypt Seen as Improving *[AL-HADATH 13 Dec]* 31
Official Contacts With Riyadh Said Continuing *[London AL-QUDS AL'ARABI 9-10 Dec]* 31
Government Forces Attack Southern Village *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 32
President Confers With Saddam Fedayeen Commanders *[INA]* 32
Deformed Births Said Caused by Chemical Weapons *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 32
Husayn Kamil's Contacts, Plan for Change Viewed *[AL-HADATH 13 Dec]* 33
More on Contacts *[AL-HADATH 13 Dec]* 34

Opposition Views on Conference, Federation *[AL-URDUN 11 Dec]* 34
Al-Sahhaf on Ties With Kuwait, Qatar *[AL-SHARQ 27 Sep]* 35

ISRAEL

Peres Comments at White House News Conference *[Jerusalem TV]* 40
Topics From Clinton-Peres Meeting Detailed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Peres Proposes Team Approach to Talks With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Netanyahu: Peres Should Listen to Shahaq's Remarks *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 11 Dec]* 42
Baraq: Depth of Withdrawal Depends on Peace *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
'Amital Said To Oppose 'Total' Golan Withdrawal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
Tzomet Leader Questions Interest in Defense Pact *[MA'ARIV 10 Dec]* 43
Minister Approves 100 Housing Units in Golan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
MKs Urge Egyptian Envoy's Expulsion for Comments *[HA'ARETZ 10 Dec]* 44
Egyptian Envoy Denies Urging Arabs To Unite *[DAVAR RISHON 11 Dec]* 45
Poll Shows Peres Would Defeat Netanyahu *[MA'ARIV 8 Dec]* 45
Netanyahu Offers Levi Slot on Party's List *[HA'ARETZ 8 Dec]* 45
Magen Quits Likud, Joins Levi's Movement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Shomron Quits Party; MKs To Vote Against Peres *[THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Dec]* 46
Ramon Sees 'Real Change' in Religious Parties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Rabbi Convicted of 'Running Amok' in Hebron *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
IDF Leaves Nabulus; General on PA Performance *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Police Detain 13 Jewish Students in Nabulus *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Tulkarm Transferred to Palestinian Authority *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Palestinian Security Chief Given VIP Entry Card *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Shahal Bars PA From Hosting Jerusalem Conference *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Israeli Wounded by Shots Near Bethlehem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Muslim Brotherhood Reportedly Banned in Territories *[THE JERUSALEM TIMES 8 Dec]* 48
Dropping Arrow, Ofeq From IDF Budget Urged *[HA'ARETZ 11 Dec]* 48
Canceling of Drone Seen as 'Serious Blow' to IAI *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 10 Dec]* 49

JORDAN

King Husayn Vows To Fight Terrorism, Extremism *[Amman Radio]* 51
King Receives Letter From Iranian President *[Amman Radio]* 51
Prime Minister Receives Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz *[AL-RA'Y 11 Dec]* 51
Al-'Ahd Party Leader Meets With Tariq 'Aziz *[AL-'AHD 11 Dec]* 51
Al-Kabariti Cited on Iranian Envoy's Expulsion *[AL-DUSTUR 11 Dec]* 51
Amman Said Exploiting Seizure of Iraq-Bound Parts *[AL-BILAD 13 Dec]* 52
Hashd Party Charged With Having Links to DFLP *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Dec]* 52
Minister Authorizes Establishment of New Party *[AL-RA'Y 12 Dec]* 53
Opposition Leader Denies Slandering King *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Dec]* 53
Journalists Condemn Plan To Amend Press Law *[THE STAR 7-13 Dec]* 53
Paper Decries Plans To Amend Press Law *[THE STAR 7-13 Dec]* 54
Bin-Shakir: Change To End Tabloids' 'Excesses' *[JORDAN TIMES 11 Dec]* 55

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives President Clinton's Phone Call *[Damascus Radio]* 57
Minister: Progress Depends on Peres' Offers in U.S. *[London AL-HAYAH 10 Dec]* 57
Commentary Reiterates Damascus' Peace Position *[Damascus Radio]* 57
Press Criticizes Peres' Washington News Conference *[Damascus Radio]* 58
Al-Asad Receives Sudan Presidency Minister *[Damascus Radio]* 59
'High-Level' Sources: Amman Fears Syria-Iraq Ties *[London AL-HAYAH 11 Dec]* 59

Committee on Iraq Border Demarcation Reaches Accord *[London AL-HAYAH 10 Dec]* 60

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Denies Meeting With Rabbani *[IRNA]* 62
Khalili Declares Amnesty in Controlled Areas *[IRNA]* 62
Dostam's Forces Gain Territory in Samangan *[Tehran International]* 62
Taleban Commander Killed in Government Air Raid *[Kabul Radio]* 62
Fighting Continues Between Government, Taleban *[Tehran International]* 63
Taleban Launches Artillery Attack in Kabul 63
Three Killed in Attack *[AFP]* 63
Government Buildings Hit *[IRNA]* 64

India

Kashmir Government Denies Rescue Operation *[Delhi Radio]* 64
Minister Discusses Pakistan-Sponsored 'Terrorism' *[Delhi Radio]* 64
Tajikistan President Arrives on Official Visit 64
Views Islamic Fundamentalism *[Delhi Radio]* 64
Addresses Ties, Afghan Issue *[Delhi Radio]* 65
Minister Optimistic for Indian Ocean Rim Bloc *[Delhi Radio]* 65
Thorium-Based Nuclear Unit Planned for Madras *[DINAMALAR 28 Nov]* 65
Satellite Placed in 'Second Intermediate Orbit' *[Delhi Radio]* 65
Article Views Plane Program, Need for Success *[THE HINDU 1 Dec]* 65
Official Discusses Missle Program Development *[THE HINDU 9 Dec]* 67

Iran

U.S. 'Propaganda' on Defense Spending Assailed *[Tehran Radio]* 67
U.S. Efforts To Limit Bosnian Influence Addressed *[Tehran Radio]* 68
Islamic World's Role in Bosnian Accord Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Velayati Interviewed on OIC Meeting, Bosnia *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Head of Judiciary: No Political Prisoners *[Tehran TV]* 70
Libyan Official Seeks Closer Relations *[IRNA]* 70
French Firm To Work on Completion of Airport *[IRNA]* 70
Country To Receive Russian Submarine Next Year *[Tehran International]* 70
Increase Seen in Nonoil Exports to Central Asia *[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY 2 Dec]* 71
Conference Held on Caspian Sea Oil, Gas Resources 71
Oil Minister Urges Cooperation *[Tehran TV]* 71
Details Nation's Intentions *[IRNA]* 71
Nation Said 'Logical Passage' for Gas, Oil Exports *[IRNA]* 72
Khamenei Urges 'Reconstruction' in Qom Address *[Tehran TV]* 73
Cabinet Proposes Raising Qom to Province Status *[Tehran TV]* 73
Judiciary Head Comments on Fourth Majles *[TEHRAN TIMES 29 Nov]* 74
Mahdavi-Kani on Islamic Culture, Majles Elections *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 29 Nov]* 74
Officials Address Upcoming Majles Elections 75
Need for Political Parties Stressed *[KHORASAN 29 Nov]* 75
Active Participation Urged *[IRNA]* 76
Presidential Committee to Monitor Majles Elections *[IRNA]* 77
Law on Women's Equal Political Participation Urged *[IRNA]* 77
Official Sees Increased Steel Production Capacity *[IRNA]* 77

Pakistan

Minister Denies Report of U.S. Bases in Country *[THE MUSLIM 8 Dec]* 77

UN Observer Group Member Expelled for 'Espionage' *[THE FRONTIER POST 12 Dec]* 78
Search Continues for Embassy Blast Accomplices *[THE FRONTIER POST 11 Dec]* 78
Minister Said in Philippines for Embassy Bomb Suspects *[THE MUSLIM 12 Dec]* 79
Bhutto Expresses 'Determination' for Karachi Peace *[Islamabad International]* 79
Official Reports 6 Killed, 7 Injured in Karachi *[Islamabad Radio]* 80
Daily Views 'Revenge' Factor in Karachi Killings *[THE NATION 11 Dec]* 80
Protests Over Murders of MQM Chief's Relatives 80
Government Accused of Responsibility *[THE NATION 12 Dec]* 80
Security on Alert at Funerals *[Islamabad TV]* 81
MQM Reduces Strike to 2 Days *[THE MUSLIM 11 Dec]* 81
Strike Observed in Karachi *[Islamabad Radio]* 81
Minister Comments on Elections, Karachi Deaths *[Islamabad TV]* 81
Opposition Leader Rejects Talks With Government *[Islamabad Radio]* 82
Further on Rejection of Dialogue *[THE NATION 9 Dec]* 82

Sri Lanka

President Rules Out Cease-Fire With LTTE *[AFP]* 83
Tamil Parties Said Dismayed Over President Stand *[AFP]* 83
Tamil Politicians Discuss Concerns With President *[DAILY NEWS 12 Dec]* 84
Radio on Eastern Offensive by Police Commandos *[Colombo International]* 85
LTTE Said To Remove 'Government Agent' *[LANKAPUVATH]* 85
UNICEF: 'Guerrillas' Enlist Children in Army *[AFP]* 85
Displaced Civilians Report on LTTE 'Split' *[DAILY NEWS 12 Dec]* 86
LTTE Releases Leader's Martyrs' Day Message *[soc.culture.tamil 5 Dec]* 86

Inter-Arab Affairs

Reasons for Syrian-Iraqi Rapprochement Viewed

JN1112183895 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 13 Dec 95 p 1

[Unattributed article]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi Government has received a green light from the Syrian Government to dispatch to Damascus Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, under secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, on a visit that was postponed several times. It has been learned that the expected meeting, which will take place on the Iraqi-Syrian border in the near future, will deal with normalizing bilateral relations.

The sudden Syrian step came following the signals made by the Syrian president in his speech on the 25th anniversary of the Corrective Movement, in which he announced his solidarity with the Iraqi people and his rejection of attempts to divide Iraq.

At the same time, Baghdad received Syrian signals on the possibility of pumping Iraqi oil via the Iraqi-Syrian pipeline, which has not been used since 1979 following the deterioration in bilateral relations which resulted in complete estrangement and in closure of their common borders.

Observers said they fear the pumping of Iraqi oil via Syria would result in stopping Iraqi oil supplies to Jordan. This prompted Jordan to carry out maintenance work on the Tapline, which will carry Saudi oil to Jordan in order to backstop any possible halt in Iraqi oil supplies, particularly since the Jordanian Government has received an official Saudi pledge to guarantee the flow of Saudi oil to Jordan in case it receives any threats to cut off Iraqi oil supplies.

Syrian trade received a strong blow when the Gulf states refused to receive Syrian trucks loaded with fruits and vegetables if they transit Iraq. This has reduced Syrian exports to the Gulf, because exporting Syrian products to the Gulf markets will cost more and will deprive these products of the competitive nature which they acquired over the past three years. This made the Gulf markets turn to Jordanian products to face shortages in vegetables and fruits. The Gulf states refused to receive the Syrian trucks coming via Iraq, because this conflicted with the resolutions of the Security Council which has been imposing economic sanctions on Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990. It is noteworthy that the Gulf states are still boycotting Iraq, and Kuwait refuses to receive the Syrian trucks coming via Iraq before Iraq implements resolutions that will qualify it to resume relations with its Gulf neighbors.

The observers have noted a change in the Syrian tone vis-a-vis the situation in Iraq with the aim of achieving regional and economic gains. The observers do not rule out the fact that the next few days will witness accelerating steps to end the 17-year estrangement and to give the Syrians an additional pressure card in the ongoing peace talks with Israel.

Sudanese-Libyan Ties With Hamas Alleged

96AA0066A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 20 Oct 95 pp 28-30

[FBIS Translated Text] Rome—While preparing to mark the 26th anniversary of the 1 September revolution, the Libyan leaders were surprised to see that the Sudanese guest they were preparing to receive was not Sudanese First Vice President Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, but Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir. This unexpected change confused Libyan protocol officials and made them wonder about the reasons for this last-minute change, of which they had not been informed.

Reports from Tripoli say that al-Bashir's visit, this time, was of a business nature. This was evident in its short duration and the length of the bilateral meeting between the Sudanese president and the Libyan leader. The meeting, which lasted for two hours and 15 minutes, was not attended by any member of the Sudanese delegation or any Libyan official, neither from the cabinet nor from the "historical leadership." Al-Bashir did not attend the popular celebrations the Jamahiriyah usually holds on this occasion. He also did not attend the party normally held in honor of the visiting delegations. Al-Bashir returned to Khartoum immediately after his meeting with al-Qadhdhafi.

What they discussed during that unexpected private meeting? Why was al-Zubayr's visit canceled at the last moment and the Libyan authorities not informed? What is the relationship between these surprise developments and the expulsion of foreign and Arab workers from the Jamahiriyah? Why have the Libyan authorities changed their mind and gave the Sudanese another three months to either secure work permits or leave? Did the Rome meeting between influential figures of the National Islamic Front and Jum'ah al-Fazzani have any connection with the expulsion of the 11 Libyan opposition leaders from Khartoum?

Western security sources have connected between the bilateral Tripoli meeting and the Rome meeting. Ibrahim al-Sanusi, the right-hand man of Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi in the Islamic People's Congress, flew from Khartoum to attend the Rome meeting. Members of the Sudanese Government delegation, which attended

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

a conference in Munich on 11 and 12 September with a delegation from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (John Garang) and other southern opposition leaders, also attended the Rome meeting. The Libyan delegation was led by Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the foreign relations bureau or foreign minister. Al-Fazzani had served in Sudan as secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau for almost 10 years. Furthermore, al-Fazzani hails from al -Zaghawah tribes in western Sudan, and some of his relatives reportedly still live in Niyal and al-Fashir towns in western Sudan.

The Rome meeting, according to the little information we have about it, was held as a result of the Tripoli summit. It discussed the details and implementation of the agreement reached between al-Bashir and al-Qadhdhafi. Following this meeting, stormy events took place, resulting in the expulsion of foreign workers from the Jamahiriyah. Western sources say that Libya offered a number of reasons to justify the expulsion. The sources revealed to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI the reasons behind the expulsion decision and why it was made at this time. The information they provided was extensive. While the expulsion of Palestinian workers occupied most of the world attention, the expulsion of African workers, to which no one paid much attention, was strategically and vitally more important, affecting the overall situation in northern Africa.

Western security sources said that the al-Sanusi-al-Fazzani meeting in Rome took place after Khartoum exerted much pressure for the implementation of the Tripoli plan, which al-Qadhdhafi rejected when it was first proposed to him by the Sudanese president. What was this plan, which the Libyan leadership first rejected and then accepted?

Private sources told AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Khartoum had learned about al-Qadhdhafi's plan to expel the Arab and foreign workers from Libya. Libya's pretext was the sanctions imposed on the Tripoli regime three years ago for not surrendering the two Libyans suspected of involvement in the American aircraft explosion over Lockerbie in Scotland. Khartoum learned about it from its many influential sources in the Libyan leadership and from the Libyan opposition members in the Popular Defense Camps. It received information about the number of illegal workers that will be expelled. It found out that the Sudanese workers, estimated by the Tripoli Census Bureau at 2 million, will be mostly affected by this decision.

To stop the expulsion and prevent its negative effects on the Sudanese economy, the political leadership in Khartoum adopted measures and prepared a plan, which al-Bashir took with him on his surprise trip to Libya. The plan contained the following points:

1. The number of Sudanese workers cannot be that high. According to Sudanese estimates, they cannot be more than 200,000 workers. The others must be from the neighboring African states of Chad, Mali, and Niger. They take advantage of the open borders across the desert to enter Libya without any identification papers. When they are asked about their identity, they say that they are Sudanese. This is because the Arabs enjoy a special status and the Sudanese enjoy a good reputation in Libya. If Libya wants to expel all these, it must first confirm their identity before sending them to Dunqula, Sawakin, and Omdurman or allow a Sudanese Interior Ministry delegation to come to Libya to examine the papers of these workers.

2. Sudan would exploit the expulsion of Palestinian workers to embarrass Egypt, in view of the bad relations between them. The Libyan security authorities have been driving the Palestinian workers toward the Egyptian-Libyan border, near the al-Sallum crossing, causing a dilemma to the Egyptian Government. If it opened the crossing points to the expelled workers, it would make it possible for extremist Egyptian elements from the Sudanese camps to infiltrate into Egypt and cause disturbances and instability. If it allowed them to pass through and go to the Palestinian autonomy areas, it would cause problems to the Palestinian Authority, because hundreds of Hamas and other Palestinian fighters opposed to the Oslo Agreement, who are stationed in Sudan near the Sudanese-Libyan border and on the banks of the Nile River near Shandi and al-Matammah could join the returning workers.

3. Sudanese Interior Ministry officials should be allowed to examine the identities of African workers in Libya and try to use them to support Sudan's plans to resist "imperialism and Western arrogance." The Chadian nationals would be absorbed in camps established in Kabkabyah, in western Sudan. These camps belong to the forces of Goukouni Oueddei, who was removed from power 15 years ago and is opposed to the regime of Idriss Deby in N'Djamena. The Niger elements would be absorbed by the forces of Niger Prime Minister Mahamadou, who does not see eye-to-eye with President Mahamane Ousmane.

Mahamadou is known as a hard-line Islamist in the Niger government. He belongs to a religious family, which was responsible for spreading Islam in Niger. He was one of the first graduates of the African Islamic Center in Khartoum in the seventies, which is now known as al-Za'im al-Azhari University. He is also a

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

prominent member of the al-Turabi's Islamic People's Congress.

The same applies to the African workers from Mali, who could be used in the Tala'i' al-Nur ranks to launch strikes in Africa.

The Libyan leader, according to these sources, rejected these proposals. Al-Bashir left the Jamahiriyah after confirming that al-Qadhdhafi intends to expel the foreign workers and would not heed Khartoum's warnings against expelling non-Sudanese Africans to Sudan.

Indeed, the Libyan security authorities expelled about 100,000 workers, in two stages, to temporary centers established by the Sudanese government in Sawakin, on the Red Sea, and Dunqula, in northern Sudan. The government examined their papers and found out, after talking to them, that some of them were not Sudanese. So, it released the Sudanese and kept the Africans to send them back to their countries, or, according to another story, to send them to the Popular Defense Camps or Tala'i' al-Nur in the center and west of the continent.

Khartoum went further by adopting a bold measure. The security authorities in Khartoum expelled 11 Libyans opposed to al-Qadhdhafi's regime from Sudan. These opposition leaders, who faced imprisonment and torture in Libyan prisons, had lived in Khartoum, according to an agreement between the two regimes to keep them under surveillance. However, their expulsion was interpreted as a strong message to al-Qadhdhafi that "we can export instability to Tripoli." However, several Gulf airports refused to receive the 11 deportees. The authorities at Heathrow Airport in London also refused to grant them political asylum. So, they returned to Sudan.

Tripoli then sent al-Fazzani to Khartoum to discuss this unexpected measure. Sudanese leaders informed him that they have other methods at their disposal. They reminded him of the presence of trained Libyan fundamentalist elements in the Popular Defense Camps, who had returned from Afghanistan, and that Khartoum could use them.

Al-Fazzani was told indirectly that 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Ubaydi, the mastermind of the recent acts of violence in Benghazi, lives in Khartoum.

In light of this bold position, Tripoli invited the al-Bashir regime for a round of negotiations to solve the crisis between the two countries. Khartoum accepted the invitation and sent a delegation to the Rome meeting, in which Khartoum's plan was approved.

Consequently, a Sudanese official announced that Libya gave 300,000 Sudanese nationals, staying illegally in Libya, three more months to obtain work permits or leave the country. He added that the Jamahiriyah also allowed the Sudanese workers who wish to return home, after the three-month grace period or by the end of this year, to take with them all their possessions, apart from what is banned by Libyan law.

At a news conference in Khartoum following the Libyan extension announcement, Taj-al-Din al-Mahdi, secretary general of the Bureau of Sudanese Expatriates, said that a Sudanese-Libyan committee will be formed to organize the return of the Sudanese workers who wish to leave the Jamahiriyah. The official did not discuss the difficulties the deportees faced during the trip back home. He also did not mention the reported death of some deportees during the torturous journey across the desert.

The National Islamic Front's media in Khartoum continued to justify the Libyan action, saying that the tragedy of the Arab and African deportees was a natural and direct result of the UN sanctions imposed on Libya three years ago.

Regarding the Palestinian workers, the Sudanese negotiators promised that Sudan will use its good relations with the Palestinian Authority [PA], Hamas, and the other Palestinian groups to convene a meeting with the PLO in Khartoum to work out an arrangement under which the deported Palestinian workers would return to the self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho. Sudan would then use the agreement between the PA and the opposition to undermine the peace process and its most important achievement, the PA. It would try to foil all the settlement efforts by sewing dissent and disagreement among the Palestinians.

Sudanese officials have not denied that their plan in the Palestinian territories could fail because of the good security relations that exist between the PA and the Rabin government and the support 'Arafat is receiving from the United States and some neighboring states. However they promised that, in case these efforts fail, Sudan would try to involve Hamas in the elections for the Palestinian autonomy council next spring and reinforce it with Hamas members from Sudan and Palestinian workers expelled from Libya.

News agencies have reported that consultations are currently taking place in Khartoum between a delegation representing the Hamas Movement in the Palestinian territories and Hamas leaders abroad on a draft agreement with the PA. According to this agreement, Hamas would pledge to stop attacking Israelis in areas under PLO administration.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel radio has confirmed the report, saying that the Israeli security authorities have agreed to allow the delegation members to travel to Sudan via Jordan. 'Arafat's adviser, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, also confirmed the existence of such agreement, saying that it guarantees the continued existence of Hamas within the framework of the PA. Palestinian officials also said that the hard-line Islamic opposition, represented in Hamas, has agreed to stop attacking Israelis in the autonomy areas.

Many questions have been raised about whether the Hamas negotiating delegation will succeed in securing the agreement of the Hamas leaders abroad, who are more intransigent than the Hamas leaders in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. There are also doubts about the Hamas Movement's ability to control its armed members and followers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip or the new comers from Sudan, Southern Lebanon, and Libya.

No one knows for sure which of the Hamas political and military leaders live in Sudan. It is known that Ibrahim Ghawshah and Muhammad Nazzal live in Jordan and Musa Abu-Rizq, head of the Hamas Movement's Political Bureau, is detained in the United States.

Israel radio has quoted Israeli military sources as saying that the Hamas leaders, who went to Khartoum, had met with Shaykh Yasin in Israeli prison and discussed with him the reconciliation plan with the PA. The radio said that Shaykh Yasin, founder of Hamas, has supported the plan.

There are questions about the ability of the Khartoum regime to torpedo the newly established PA. Hamas could torpedo the PA by launching military operations in the self-rule areas or by participating in the elections and torpedoing the PA from within. This is the preferred method of al-Turabi's followers, who used it when they participated in the May regime. Libya would also benefit from destabilizing the regimes of Mahamane Ousmane in Niger and Idriss Deby in Chad and the establishment of pro-Khartoum [as published] fundamentalist regimes that could violate the international sanctions against Libya and provide an outlet to Africa.

Islamic Affairs

OIC Ministerial Summit Continues in Guinea

Guinea President's Opening Speech

AB1012173095 Conakry Radiodiffusion Nationale de la Republique de Guinee in French 1945 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The 23d session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] foreign ministers conference opened today in Conakry. Guinean President Lansana Conte, OIC's second vice president, gave the opening address. [passage omitted]

[Begin Conte recording] We are today witnesses, often powerless witnesses, of wars being waged by our Islamic brothers to safeguard their territories, but we must also deplore the fratricidal struggle between Muslims. All these tragedies, which challenge us, must stimulate us to mobilize better for a more active and effective Islamic solidarity.

In the Middle East, my country congratulates and encourages the illustrious actors of peace and notes that history is a witness to their political courage and their exemplary self-sacrifice.

However, despite the significant progress made recently, the Palestinian issue must continue to receive our attention and we must mobilize and demonstrate our solidarity toward the achievement of a just and definitive settlement.

Of course, the other centers of tension — Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Somalia, Syria's Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon are also sources of concern for our organization. We can make the same efforts toward the achievement of a definitive peace in these countries. The time has come to show solidarity toward all these sister countries, which are victims of intolerable tragedies.

Close to us, the situation in Liberia and Sierra Leone remains an example of the tragedy which is creating enormous political, economic, and social difficulties for Guinea. In light of this observation, the foreign ministers conference of the 23d session of the OIC is the appropriate framework to assess development and aid programs in a greater spirit of solidarity, because the factors that we have just stigmatized accentuate our already fragile economies. It is therefore imperious to better coordinate our policies to boost our countries' economic growth and development. [end recording]

President Conte, who is anxious for the social and cultural development of the youth, pleaded for the strengthening of Islamic institutions and universities. [passage omitted]

No Stand Taken on Nigeria

AB1112121795 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 0730 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday was the second day of the deliberations of Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] ministerial summit. In his statement at the opening ceremony, OIC Secretary General Hamid

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algabid, launched an urgent appeal to the 50 member countries to pay their financial contributions to enable the organization to function better. From Conakry, Ben Daouda Sylla has the details:

[Begin Sylla recording] No common stand has been adopted in regard to the Lagos regime. Nigeria, on which Western countries have imposed sanctions, is not even on the agenda of the organization. The 30-minute media briefing held by the secretary general, focused on the defense of Islam which is being discredited in a worldwide campaign. For Dr. Hamid Algabid, Islam is not linked to the current wave of terrorism. Indeed, a code of conduct is being implemented against any form of extremism. He added that the creation of an international Islamic court of justice is still a project because its statutes have been ratified by a few OIC members. The majority of its members are yet to ratify them. One wonders who will be judged by this court. Will they be people who attack Muslims or extremists within the Muslim community? [end recording]

India in 'Occupied Kashmir' Criticized

BK1212051895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] foreign ministers conference has expressed deep concern over the prevailing tension threatening security and peace in South Asia as a result of large-scale deployment of Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. A resolution adopted by the conference in Conakry has vehemently condemned the continuing massive violation of human rights of the people of Kashmir by the Indian troops and called for respect of the human rights, including the right of self-determination.

It regretted that the OIC's fact-finding mission was not allowed to visit occupied Kashmir by the Indian authorities. It noted the strong condemnation by Pakistan and All Parties Hurriyat Conference of the deplorable act of hostage-taking by the so-called Al-Faran group in occupied Kashmir and called for immediate and safe release of all the hostages.

The conference affirmed that so-called political process or elections held under foreign occupation cannot be a substitute of the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir as provided in the Security Council resolution. The resolution described the destruction of Charar Sharif [shrine in Kashmir] by Indian troops as a serious offense against the Muslim heritage. It called upon the international community to spare no efforts to ensure protection of the fundamental rights of Kashmiri people as well as safeguarding their religious and cultural rights. The resolution appealed to the OIC member states for providing relief and humanitarian assistance to the people of Kashmir.

Reinforcing Bosnia Defense Urged

LD1212120295 Tehran IRNA in English 1145 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Conakry, Guinea, Dec. 12, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stressed here Monday that reinforcement [of] Bosnia's defence power, creating military balance in the Balkans and reconstructing Bosnia-Herzegovina were among the most important tasks the world of Islam faces today.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 23rd ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), he told reporters that OIC foreign ministers raised various issues and tried to coordinate their stance on the issues. Preparing a draft resolution required for the concluding session of the OIC foreign ministers was another topic discussed by them, Velayati said.

Velayati, referring to the joint session of the western and OIC contact groups to be held in Paris on Wednesday, said despite the fact that the Dayton accord is not just, Islamic countries should help the Bosnian people reconstruct their country.

Jordan Minister on Peace Commitment

JN1112171995 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan has renewed its commitment to supporting all issues of concern to Islamic countries to help them achieve solidarity, cooperation, tolerance, and security. This was stated in a speech by minister of Islamic Affairs 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Abbadi before the 23d Islamic countries foreign ministers' conference in Guinea.

In his address, Mr. al-'Abbadi reviewed Jordanian efforts and positions on the islamic shrines in Jerusalem, as well as its ongoing role in protecting and maintaining the holy places in the city. The minister confirmed that Jordan was sticking to the peace process, and would continue to carry on with its efforts to resume peace negotiations on all tracks and arrive at a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Guinea President, Syria's al-Shar' Meet

JN1112184795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Conakry—Guinea President Lansana Conte received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the Conferences Palace in Conakry this afternoon.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Shar' conveyed the greetings of President Hafiz al-Asad to the Guinea president, who asked him to convey his best wishes to the president.

They discussed the 23d conference of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization under way in the Guinea capital. The Guinea president hailed the important role Syria plays in the conference.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 3 Dec

NC0912072795

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 3 December edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Labor Party Issues Statement on Election Rigging
2. Ibrahim Shukri Accuses Mubarak of Interfering in Elections
3. U.S. State Department Reportedly Denounces Election Results
4. Reports Note Massive Rigging of Elections
5. 'Adil Husayn Describes Election Results as Police Coup
6. Writer Expresses Surprise at Defeat of Ibrahim Shukri
7. Writer Denounces Clamp-Down on Muslim Brotherhood
8. Writer Says Interior Ministry Suspects All Citizens
9. Writer Pinpoints Mubarak's Shortcomings

LABOR PARTY ISSUES STATEMENT ON ELECTION RIGGING

On page 1 and 2, the newspaper publishes the text of a 955-word statement issued by the Labor Party accusing the government of fraud and interfering in the elections. The statement describes 29 November, the day on which the election results were announced, as "Black Wednesday." The statement rejects the election results and says that the new People's Assembly will lack "legitimacy."

IBRAHIM SHUKRI ACCUSES MUBARAK OF INTERFERING IN ELECTIONS

Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri—himself a candidate who has failed to secure a seat in the new People's Assembly elections— writes a 1,000-word article on pages 1 and 2 in which he accuses President Mubarak of directly interfering in the elections. Shukri describes the election results as a "massacre" of democracy unprecedented in Egypt even in the dark ages and a staged "television" production of a premeditated decision to rig the elections and exclude the Islamist Alliance candidates. Shukri finds fault with President Mubarak's long television interview on the eve of the elections, describing the interview as "crude propaganda" for the ruling National Democratic Party [NDP]. Addressing the government, Shukri says: "You have won power while we have won the people's love, respect, and confidence." "You have won by fraud while we have won by defending democracy and showing the ugliness of your fraud." "We are advocates of stability," while "you are advocates of instability." "You have shown your real face to the whole world." "The scandal is unprecedented and your usurpation of power is no longer in doubt."

In a small box on page 2, Ibrahim Shukri writes a 50-word of encouragement to the "thousands of detainees" "behind bars." He says "Despite what happened and what is happening, we are with you and beside you. We will not forget you or forget your honorable stands. Tomorrow is not far away."

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT REPORTEDLY DENOUNCES ELECTION RESULTS

An unattributed 140-word report on page 1 says: The U.S. State Department has denounced the results of the parliamentary elections in Egypt. It has asked President Mubarak to investigate the opposition's accusations against his regime that it rigged the elections, put pressure on voters, and used force against rival candidates. In a statement issued yesterday, the State Department said: "The defeat of the symbols of opposition in Egypt confirms the suspicion that the elections were rigged in favor of the ruling party. President Mubarak must personally investigate these charges, particularly since he has previously declared that he would not interfere in the elections, that the elections would be free, and that no pressure would be put on voters." The U.S. State Department expressed its concern over the turn of events in Egypt, describing them as serious and a threat to human rights. All European television and other media services broadcast this statement.

REPORTS NOTE MASSIVE RIGGING OF ELECTIONS

'Amr Salman and Mu'tazz al-Hadidi jointly write an 800-word report on page 1, entitled "None of the Opposition Candidates Have Won..and Demonstrations Engulf the Whole Country." The report says that the regime's "foolishness" reached an unprecedented level after the "hand of fraud" interfered to prevent all opposition candidates from entering Parliament. None of the opposition candidates won any seats in the first round while the ruling party and its cronies won 100 percent of the seats. The report adds that in response to the "biggest fraud in Egypt's history," the masses

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

staged demonstrations to protest this "aggression." The report cites skirmishes between the demonstrators and police in several governorates. All in all, the report says, 23 people were killed and over 207 injured in various incidents on election day while the Interior Ministry officially announced that 12 people were killed and 53 others injured.

On the inside pages, the newspaper runs several reports on the harassment of the Labor Party and Islamist Alliance candidates and the purported rigging of the elections.

'ADIL HUSAYN DESCRIBES ELECTION RESULTS AS POLICE COUP

On page 3, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn writes a 3,000-word article in which he comments on the news conference held by Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi to announce the election results. Seizing a phrase used by al-Alfi in which he said that the police performed their task "according to accurate plans and with watchful eyes and dedicated efforts," 'Adil Husayn takes this to mean what happened on 29 November was not an election process but a "police coup to end the rule of the Constitution." Husayn says that al-Alfi began his news conference on 1 December with "the confidence of a coup leader in full control of events." Al-Alfi asked everybody "to obey and listen" but he soon faced a "barrage of questions" by Egyptian and foreign correspondents. The news conference thus turned into a "popular public trial" of al-Alfi, who lost his nerves. "It was natural for him to lie while answering the accusations." 'Adil Husayn says that al-Alfi refrained from answering several questions and cut short his news conference.

'Adil Husayn reiterates that there was a "police coup against the Constitution and the voters." He adds that "the government perpetrated this criminal coup because it knew the extent of the people's rage against it." "The coupists used maximum violence and terrorism" against the voters.

'Adil Husayn then asks the question whether it was wrong for the Labor Party to participate in the 29 November elections and whether this participation will give "legitimacy" to the new People's Assembly? He answers that none of the Labor Party or Islamist Alliance candidates viewed the elections as real; all were aware of the government's intention to rig the elections. He says rigging was therefore "not a surprise." He says the Labor Party did not decide to participate in the elections because we imagined that the elections would be fair and free but because we believed that "freedom is snatched and not granted" and because we believed that "the devils do not abandon their intrigues voluntarily." "We know that our battles with the regime are long and continuous and will not be settled in one round."

'Adil Husayn derides the government for "cooking up" the election results and not allowing Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri and Muslim Brotherhood official spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi to win. He suggests that if Shukri and al-Hudaybi had won, this would have helped the government in its claims that the elections were fair.

'Adil Husayn warns the government that the "wholesale" exclusion of the Labor Party candidates will lead many people to deduce that it is necessary to "confront the coup and meet force with force." He says that the Labor Party "will under no circumstances resort to violence" but the problem is that many youths will go underground and support the militants who are carrying weapons against the government.

WRITER EXPRESSES SURPRISE AT DEFEAT OF IBRAHIM SHUKRI

On page 3, Dr. Rif'at Sayyid Ahmad writes a 600-word article in which he expresses surprise at the defeat of Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri in the elections. He asks whether famous Egyptian writer Muhammad Husayn Haykal's prediction about the imminent collapse of the Egyptian regime will materialize now that Shukri was deliberately excluded from the new People's Assembly. The writer asks how could Ibrahim Shukri, a parliamentarian for 40 continuous years, have lost? He asks whether is it logical that Shukri could not obtain 20,000 votes, like his rival Fathi Mansur? Is it logical that Shukri could not secure the votes of three villages "indebted to him by gratitude, love, and long history of struggle." The writer addresses his questions to Egypt's intellectuals, to the researchers of al-Ahram Political and Strategic Studies Center, to the Interior minister, who "claimed there were no irregularities," and to "the head of the Egyptian regime, who asked us to be positive and to go to the polling stations." The writer wonders "whether it is correct any more to denounce the violence of the Islamist movements" against the government. Addressing Shukri, the writer says: "Do not be sad, sir. The collusion against you and your deliberate exclusion are the most eloquent message to us about the size of falsehood and illusion we live in under the democracy of Mubarak's regime. Tomorrow is not far away."

WRITER DENOUNCES CLAMP-DOWN ON MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

On page 10, Dr. Hilmi Muhammad al-Qa'ud writes a 700-word article entitled "People Are Not Led by Sticks." He says that what is happening to the Muslim

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Brotherhood [MB] is a bad omen for the country's future and destiny. The MB group has not carried weapons against the government and has denounced terrorism. It has also condemned the failed assassination attempt against President Mubarak. Nevertheless, the government has arrested MB members and sent them to military courts. The writer says that the regime is gaining new enemies every day because of its program of eradicating Islamists. The regime is using sticks to terrorize the people and to prove its strength. He says this is not the way to treat the people, who are the base of power. He calls for "natural understanding" between the people and the regime—not through sticks but through free choice and goodwill.

WRITER SAYS INTERIOR MINISTRY SUSPECTS ALL CITIZENS

A 600-word column by Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din on page 10 says the Interior Ministry's policy is based on suspecting everything the citizen says or does. This "crisis of confidence" increases when the citizen is Islamist. If he carries money, it is to finance terrorism. If he establishes a business, it is a cover criminal activity. If he owns a computer or a fax machine or carries a few dollars, he is pronounced guilty before he stands in front of the public prosecutor.

WRITER PINPOINTS MUBARAK'S SHORTCOMINGS

On page 10, Najah al-'Ashri writes an 800-article in which he enumerates Mubarak's shortcomings as follows: 1) He ignores the people's demands for political change. He has rejected dialogue with the extremist Islamist groups and has adopted a policy of retribution. 2) He is slow in adopting decisions. His policy is based on instilling despair in the people by being slow in adopting decisions and measures, which if taken in time, will leave a wonderful effect on the people. 3) He toes the line of the U.S. foreign policy and listens to its instructions, which call for the liberalization of the Egyptian economy and acceding to the demands of the IMF and the World Bank.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinians Take Control of Nabulus

JN1212073695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli forces of occupation completed their withdrawal from the Nabulus area last night. The last Israeli soldier withdrew after 28 years of occupation and Nabulus was proclaimed a liberated Palestinian city like Gaza, Jericho, Janin, and Tulkarm. Our correspondent in Nabulus reports this morning that thousands of citizens from the villages and camps around the city flocked to the occupation's Civil Administration headquarters raising Palestinian flags and chanting national slogans, rejoicing over the removal of the Israeli occupation from Nabulus and the arrival of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA].

The first group of the National Security Forces led by Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il, commander of the National Security Forces, and other military officials arrived in Nabulus at dawn today.

Celebrations in the city lasted throughout last night with the participation of al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the PNA Presidency. Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim delivered a speech praising our Palestinian people's role in liberating the homeland. He said that President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Nabulus soon.

Officers Arrive in Ramallah To Prepare Takeover

JN1112124595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vanguards of the Palestinian National Security Forces and police arrived in Ramallah a short while ago to begin preparations for the National Authority's takeover of Ramallah on 22 December. In coordination with the Israeli side within the joint military liaison committee, 11 Palestinian officers will prepare for the arrival of the Palestinian National Security Forces and police, thus heralding the beginning of the withdrawal of the occupation forces outside the residential areas in the governorate.

'Arafat Reportedly To Attend PA-Hamas Meetings

TA1112151295 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 10 Dec 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-NAHAR has learned that the efforts to arrange a dialogue between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] are about to succeed and that the next few hours will result in the launching of official meetings between the two sides in Cairo.

Informed sources say that consultations are still going on to determine the final date of the meetings, the inauguration of which will be attended by President Yasir 'Arafat. Hani al-Hasan is also expected to attend the meetings.

It is believed that the decision to extend the date of the nominations in the elections by four days was for this reason.

The Hamas delegation from the Gaza Strip is expected to include 'Abd-al-Fattah Dakhan, Muhammad Hasan

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Sham'ah, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, and Shaykh Sayyid Abu-Musamih.

The West Bank delegation is to be composed of Shaykh Jamil Hamami from Jerusalem, Shaykh Hasan Yusuf from Ramallah, Shaykh Jamal Salim from Nabulus, and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Natshah from Hebron. A group of Hamas leaders from abroad is also expected to join these two delegations.

Moreover, AL-NAHAR has learned that Shaykh Sayyid Abu-Musamih, who is currently in a PA jail, will be released within the coming hours.

On a different level, it has been learned that an Islamic National Salvation Party delegation met with President 'Arafat and requested permission for the party to issue a newspaper. 'Arafat was informed of the intention to proclaim the party shortly. President 'Arafat blessed these steps and called on the party to participate in the upcoming elections.

It has been learned that the question of Dr. Abu-Marzuq and Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, as well as other issues, will be put on the agenda of the meetings between the PA and Hamas.

'Arafat Receives Hamas Delegation in Gaza

JN1212075195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat received a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] delegation at the presidency in Gaza yesterday. Mahmud al-Zahhar and Muhammad Sham'ah led the Hamas delegation.

President 'Arafat's Adviser Nabil Abu-Rudaynah told Voice of Palestine after the meeting that they agreed to hold a meeting between the National Authority [NA] and the Hamas Movement in Cairo at the end of this week. He said that the meeting was positive.

Al-Zahhar told Voice of Palestine that the forthcoming legislative elections and Hamas participation in them will be the main topics discussed at the meeting. Hamas will be represented by 'Abd-al-Fattah Dukhkhan, Jamil Hamami, and 'Abd-al-Khaliq al- Natshah. Dr. al-Zahhar added that Hamas will hold a meeting with its leaders abroad in Khartoum before leaving for Cairo on Thursday to meet with the NA delegation.

Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn, Presidency Secretary General al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, and Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, attended the meeting.

Hamas Vows To Continue 'Armed Struggle'

NC0912080295 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in a statement released to mark the ninth anniversary of the intifadah, has vowed to continue its armed struggle against the Zionists. Hamas stressed that the intifadah and the heroic operations, which set fire under the feet of the occupiers, prove that the only way to wrest rights and liberate the land is resistance in all forms.

The statement said that the Palestinian leadership stabbed the Palestinian people's intifadah in the back when it bargained over the blood of martyrs and the sacrifices of free men. Hamas stressed its rejection of the Oslo agreement and results despite all attempts by some to glamorize these agreements.

'Arafat, Polish Minister Discuss Joint Ventures

JN1112181995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Dec 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za' in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received Polish Construction Minister Barbara Blida and the Polish businessmen and contractors delegation at the Presidential Office in Gaza this afternoon. Attended by Housing Minister Zakariya al-Agha, the meeting dealt with joint Palestinian-Polish construction and housing ventures. The two sides also discussed housing projects in the Gaza Strip and the Polish contribution to a number of joint ventures.

President 'Arafat and the Polish minister also discussed Palestinian-Polish relations and means of promoting them. President 'Arafat held a lunch banquet in honor of the Polish minister. The Polish minister had earlier met with Dr. Zakariya al-Agha in Gaza at noon today. Talks dealt with cooperation and coordination to set up joint housing ventures in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Meanwhile, a meeting is being held between Palestinian businessmen and contractors and their Polish counterparts at the Chamber of Commerce in Gaza. The two sides will discuss cooperation in the housing projects.

In another development, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, will meet with French Finance Ministry officials in Paris today to sign a $15 million joint cooperation agreement. Part of this French aid to the National Authority will be earmarked for building the $10 million Gaza port. Palestinian hospitals will also receive modern medical equipment

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

worth $1,800 million. Palestinian television will receive modern transmission equipment worth $500 thousand. Other portions of the aid will be spent on water network projects in the West Bank and on traffic lights in Gaza.

PLO's Abu-Mazin on Charter, Jerusalem, Refugees

NC1212111595 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Dec 95 p 9

[Report by Nivin al-Sa'dani from Tunisia]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, has stated that the PLO will amend the Palestinian national charter at the appropriate time and when the conditions allow. He stressed that the Palestinian leadership has not backed down on its commitment to amend the charter, something the PLO Executive Committee undertook to do in the mutual recognition agreement, which stipulates that the amendment should be made through the Palestine National Council [PNC].

In an interview with AL-AHRAM, Abu-Mazin said there is no justification for Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' threats to stop the peace process if the PLO does not amend its national charter and repeal the clauses that refer to the destruction of Israel. He added that the Palestinian Authority [PA] pledged in the agreement to expand the self-rule area, which was signed in Washington on 28 September, to introduce the amendments after the Palestinian elections in January. He stressed that the PA will not back down on this pledge.

He noted that the Palestinian council to be elected in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in January will be part of the PNC, will represent all the Palestinian people inside and outside the territories, and will be responsible for following up any Palestinian interests and rights that have yet to be achieved.

Abu-Mazin stressed that Rabin's assassination did not achieve its objective; instead, it had the opposite result and increased the Israelis' desire for peace. He noted that polls show that 74 percent of Israelis support the peace process — the highest figure achieved by peace supporters inside Israel. He added that all the signs indicate that the left led by Peres can now implement what it believes in.

On the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, Abu-Mazin emphasized that it was an unjust, unfair, and shortsighted decision that deeply affects the credibility of the U.S. Administration and the United States as the primary and most important sponsor of the peace process. He added that the decision weakens this credibility, even though the Palestinians know the U.S. Administration and President Clinton did their best to prevent this decision from being issued but failed.

He stressed that the peace process will be impeded if Congress insists on implementing its decision anytime soon. He noted that there are pledges not to implement this decision before 1999, by which time the final stage of negotiations with Israel will be over and agreement will be reached with it on Jerusalem. He added that there will be no objection then to the United States doing what it wants, since the Palestinians and Israelis will have reached an agreement on Jerusalem by then.

Abu-Mazin went on to say that the PLO itself will continue the negotiations with Israel on the final phase and that he will be in charge of these negotiations. He explained that he did not distance himself from the negotiations in the past and is not far from the current ones. He added that the Palestinian negotiating department will follow up the negotiations with the current teams that negotiated in Taba, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and elsewhere.

Abu-Mazin stressed that the refugees issue is a sensitive and important one for the Palestinians and will be at the forefront of issues to be discussed during the final stage negotiations. He said this issue concerns the fate of 3 million Palestinians and is at the core of Palestinian feelings. He added that preparations are already under way to reach a solution that will satisfy these refugees and protect their future and rights and that there will be a bitter struggle with Israel over this issue, because it is a sensitive one for it too.

Abu-Mazin said agreement has been reached with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to hold an official dialogue between the PA and Hamas leaders in Cairo and President Husni Mubarak has granted permission to hold the dialogue in Cairo. He said he believed this dialogue will start soon.

Regarding Palestinian-Gulf relations, Abu-Mazin said that relations with most of the Gulf states are improving and are now better than they were two years ago. As for Kuwait, he said things are stagnating, and there are clouds that we hope will disappear to lift the gloom afflicting the Arab nation. He went on to say: Because it is close to all the Arab countries, Egypt is undertaking the process on its own because of the inability to achieve collective coordination. It is playing an important role with all of them on its own to create the conditions to restore collective coordination. He said he believed Egypt will continue this role. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

On the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories, Abu-Mazin stressed the need to remove them and stressed that this situation cannot continue.

PA Official: PA To 'Strike Hard' Law Violators

TA1112183295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the Palestinian defense committee said that the Palestinian Authority will strike hard at anybody trying to violate law and order in Nabulus after the Palestinian police forces enter the town. General al-Atrash told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Israel does not have anything to fear from the security situation in Nabulus and that the moment the Palestinian police enter the town they will introduce law, order, and security.

Sha'th, French Officials Sign Cooperation Accord

JN1212082295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, and French Finance Ministry officials signed a joint cooperation agreement in Paris yesterday.

The $15 million agreement will be earmarked for the building of the Gaza Port, the modernization of hospitals, supplying Palestinian television with modern equipment, upgrading the water network, and the establishment of a traffic lights network in Gaza.

Following his visit to Paris, Dr. Sha'th left for London to meet with the British minister of state for foreign affairs.

Quray' Criticizes Israeli Ban of Jerusalem Meeting

JN1112204295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', minister of economy and trade, has said he is surprised by the occupation authorities' banning of a seminar scheduled to be held in occupied Jerusalem today under the supervision of the UN Industrial Development Organization.

Quray' said the measure constitutes an Israeli attempt to impose a fait accompli in the holy city by preventing Palestinian meetings and activities in it.

Quray' said the Israeli measure does not agree with the spirit of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, which stipulates the inadmissibility of changing the Arab character of the holy city before the holding of final status negotiations.

Hizballah, Jihad Leaders Pledge To Continue Jihad

MM1112163795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Dec 95 p 7

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Shallah Attacks United States, Expects It To Be Defeated"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah and Islamic Jihad Movement Secretary General Dr. Ramadan 'Abdallah Shallah have stressed that "our Jihad" will continue until the liberation of "every inch of Palestine's [territory]." [passage omitted]

Dr. Shallah said: No peace and no negotiation with or recognition of that usurping entity. And no bargaining over a single inch of Palestine. Palestine's territory cannot be abandoned, and no truce with that usurping enemy. No truce with that enemy over Abu-Ibrahim's [Fathi al-Shaqaqi's] blood." He stressed that "our sword and gun will remain brandished until the liberation of Palestine."

He said that the "realistic alternative" to the agreements of "humiliation" between Israel and the PLO is "one word summed up in the jihad. Our program is summed up in one word: Palestine." He added: "No recognition of that usurping entity, and no bargaining over a single inch of Palestine's territory." Criticizing "Arab regimes," the Islamic Jihad's new leader said that they have turned the slogan "Palestine is the central issue" into the slogan "Israel is the central issue." He stressed that "those rushing to appease Israel have nothing left to do except to hit their own people. They will face a big dilemma when the peoples discover what the Jews are concealing from them."

Shallah, who lived in the United States and Britain for nine years before he assumed the movement's leadership, expects the United States to be defeated. He said: "It is the empire of the biggest evil, and the world is moving toward the U.S. defeat era. Nothing is required of us except to stand fast for one generation to hear the sound of the collapse of the empire of evil.... Time is not in its favor... and the balance of powers is not fixed; it is changing, and we should not abandon our holy sites."

Nasrallah pledged to al-Shaqaqi to "continue [the jihad] until the promised victory has been achieved." Because "there are big hopes and good in this nation. And we will complete the road with Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Iran, and Syria... until we liberate all Palestine and every particle of its soil." He said that "the Jerusalem promise and the Palestine promise are a divine promise."

Then he criticized the United States for its bias toward Palestine, saying that President Bill Clinton "moved

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

heaven and earth because of a hole in the door of a settler's house, but he did nothing for two weeks for the Israeli bombardment in Lebanon."

Editorial Voices Optimism About Peres-Clinton Talks

TA1112181495 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 10 Dec 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Is Peres Convinced of the Importance of Peace With Syria?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The plan that Israeli Prime Minister Peres is carrying to his meeting with U.S. President Clinton involves Israel's readiness to announce a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. This is aimed at speeding up the peace talks with Syria in order to reach an actual agreement or at least an agreement in principle before the Israeli general elections at the end of 1996. The question remains: Is this a shift in Israeli thinking in principle, or is it an Israeli maneuver to embarrass the Syrians? Whatever the case may be, what Peres is proposing is a positive development, because Prime Minister Rabin refused to commit himself to a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and was content to say: "The depth of withdrawal depends on the depth of peace."

Peres is demanding that the Americans enhance the role they are playing in these talks. He is also calling on them not to limit their actions to shuttle trips by U.S. officials and urging them to appoint a special U.S. envoy to the negotiations on the Syrian track. This Israeli move seems to proceed in the right direction. Peres' approach in advancing the peace process indicates the extent of his desire to achieve progress on the Syrian track. Whereas Rabin used to give priority to making progress in the military talks, Peres underscores the possibility of negotiating all aspects simultaneously (withdrawal from the Golan, timetable, security arrangements, and normalization of relations). Peres has actually begun to speak to the Israeli people on the benefits that Israel will gain from an agreement on the Syrian track. He announced last week that the key to peace in the region lies in reaching peace with Syria. A mere agreement with Syria would mean that 18 Arab states recognize Israel and have reached peace agreements with it.

In order to win in the Israeli political arena, Peres is trying to convince the Americans of the idea of establishing a bilateral defense pact between Israel and the United States to assure his people that a withdrawal from the Golan is covered not only by the Israeli deterrent force but also by its ally, the United States, which in this case will have a presence in Israel itself. By this approach the Israeli people will be assured that the state's security is safeguarded and that Israel is not subject to any threat.

Undoubtedly, Peres will persuade the U.S. Administration and Congress of his plan. Senate majority leader Robert Dole has announced that he supports the establishment of a pact with Israel and a strategic relationship within a comprehensive regional peace plan. Irrespective of how difficult the road to achieving progress on the Syrian track may be, we agree with some of the optimists among political observers who believe that a great development will occur on this track within the next three months. Definitely, this breakthrough will remain subject to President al-Asad's desire to enter into this adventure. President al-Asad has made us accustomed to the fact that he moves cautiously and that he does not leap into the unknown before knowing the outcome.

It seems Peres has become convinced that Israel cannot push Syria into accepting partial settlements. Syria has explained to everyone that it will not agree to flashy Israeli formulas and concepts lacking substance. Syria does not need aid to make it accept half solutions or peace formulas in installments. It has become clear from Peres' plan, which he intends to submit to the Americans, that Israel has climbed down from the high fence, has abandoned its arrogant approach, and has adopted the path of talking with the Syrians on an equal footing. Israel's old approach was rejected by Syria because that does not advance the Arabs one step forward toward peace, but creates a condition of popular and official rejection that cannot be dealt with. No one can ignore the principle of land for peace on which Syria is insisting. This is the only way that leads to confidence-building and ends the bitterness and frustration that the Arab masses are experiencing.

This movement on the Syrian-Israeli track is dictated by the balance of forces and interests of both sides and the necessity for each of them to avoid worse things if the state of "no war and no peace" continues.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

President, FIS Representatives Said To Meet

MM1112121495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Dec 95 p 4

[Report by Sami Dhubyan: "Zeroual Resumes Contacts With Algerian FIS"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Algiers, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual has resumed his contacts with the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS], breaking the deadlock that has obstructed contacts since March.

Sources close to the Algerian presidency have said that a senior adviser to President Zeroual met with two envoys of the FIS leaders who are being held in Blida prison. The FIS confirmed that the meeting was held last Saturday.

The two sides declined to say what issues were discussed at the meeting, which was described as "an official meeting" in which no fundamental issues were discussed. The FIS has named its five members who will negotiate with the Algerian administration, but the agenda has not yet been precisely defined. A source close to President Zeroual says that it cannot be said that the talks "have been resumed, because political conditions have changed since the presidential elections. Some of the issues that were raised for discussion in the past are no longer up for discussion. However, the door is open to those who will support the elections and are seeking to engage in a dialogue with us."

FIS sources have said that it will not agree to limit the negotiations to the parliamentary and municipal elections issue, as demanded by the presidency. As is known, the FIS is seeking to secure the release of its leaders and to include on the agenda the issue of allowing the formation of political parties.

Presidency sources stress that the government is not prepared to discuss these two issues before next year.

It is worth mentioning that the Algerian government is in the process of passing a new law to regulate political parties' work. It will be presented for public debate soon.

Some sources say that releasing the leaders and announcing a presidential pardon for them could become possible when a general political agreement has been reached.

The two sides expressed "cautious optimism" about the outcome of the negotiations. FIS leaders believe that the recent presidential elections have consolidated President Zeroual's position inside the ruling establishment. And that, as a result, he will be able to engage in a national dialogue while enjoying great strength and influence.

Meanwhile, the presidency sources have expressed their satisfaction at "the moderate and responsible statements" made by FIS leaders inside and outside Algeria.

A figure close to the Algerian president says: "The president is not aiming to prevent any quarter from participating in the political process. We now have an arbiter represented in Algerian voters. Anyone who recognizes and respects this quarter can contribute to building the country's future."

Sources close to the regime and those close to the FIS say that the meetings discussed in detail ways of tackling the Algerian crisis comprehensively, summing them up as follows:

1. To enable FIS leaders Shaykh Abassi Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj to make direct contacts with 10 FIS leaders inside the country in order to acquaint themselves with the nature of new developments on the Algerian scene as a whole before, during, and after the elections, and also to exchange views on what the solution should be.

2. Any solution necessitates a general amnesty for those sentenced and detained as a result of and since the start of the incidents in Algeria.

3. Any change in Madani's and Belhadj's position — be it a pardon for them or their release — would be unacceptable to them unless it is preceded by the general amnesty in question.

4. To remove the Armed Forces symbols who dealt with conditions in Algeria on the basis of eradication and autocracy.

5. To form a joint committee to discuss how the arms should be declared and collected, in addition to the abolition of some government and military organs that emerged when the crisis started.

6. Any political solution should take account of the political and popular influence of partisan forces, especially the FIS. Because just as President Zeroual relies in his legitimacy on the elections, the FIS relies on the canceled elections and its presence among the people. Thus any government and other political representation should be determined on that basis.

7. Not to rush legislative and municipal elections before responding to the preceding points, because such elections are more difficult to conduct than presidential elections. Besides, their dishonesty and failure to represent the reality would be an embarrassing matter

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

in current circumstances. Because the presidential elections are merely a prelude to searching for a solution. They are not everything.

FIS Confirms Killing of Two FIS Leaders

MM1212123595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Dec 95 p 4

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq: "Algerian Salvation Front Confirms Killing of Two of Its Leaders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — Anouar Haddam, head of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Parliamentary Mission abroad, yesterday confirmed the killing of two FIS leaders. They were Mohamed Said and Abdelrazak Radjam.

Haddam told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "The two leaders were killed at the beginning of November. The FIS National Executive Bureau in Algeria has launched an investigation into the circumstances of the incident. Algerian and world public opinion will soon be informed of the details once the investigation has been completed."

Haddam added: "The FIS stresses that it will continue the line drawn up by Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj and for the sake of which Mohamed Said and Abdelrazak Radjam worked." Haddam expects the results of the investigation to be announced in the next few days.

Haddam's statement confirms that Said and Radjam were killed at the beginning of last month, not 15 days ago as reported by the press.

FIS Renews Attacks on GIA After Murders

MM1112141395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Dec 95 p 6

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Algiers: Reports of Murder of El-Said, Radjam by GIA"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Informed Algerian sources have confirmed the murder of two Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders by the Armed Islamic Group [GIA]. They are Shaykhs Mohamed El-Said and Abdelrazak Radjam, who announced over a year ago — in mysterious circumstances — their joining of the GIA leadership, in a step the GIA termed at the time "unification of ranks under the GIA banner."

Several FIS sources have confirmed to AL-HAYAH the existence of reports to that effect. However, they said that they "are not certain and will not issue a statement on its position before this information has been corroborated." If reports of the murder of Shaykhs El-Said and Radjam are confirmed, it will be a "serious" turning point in the relationship between the FIS and the GIA in view of the escalating tension and the former's accusation against the latter of "distorting the Islamic plan, committing crimes, and deviating from the legitimate program." FIS leaders do not hesitate to accuse the GIA of being "infiltrated" by the regime's intelligence, saying that most assassination operations against foreigners, civilians, and women, in addition to the bombings, fall within the framework of a plan aimed at damaging the FIS' reputation. FIS leaders repeated these accusations, the most recent of which are the statements made to AL-HAYAH yesterday by Abdallah Anas, member of the FIS Executive Committee. The GIA has also been vehemently criticized by FIS leaders abroad, such as Rabah Kebir in Germany, Moussa Krouati in France, and Djafar Houari and Kamareddine Kharban in Britain.

Sources in Algeria say that El-Said and Radjam were killed last week. GIA circles spread the news. The information was confirmed by a leading figure in the "Algerianization" [movement], whose name was not disclosed. He said that he "escaped a fate similar to that of Shaykhs Radjam and El-Said." The leading figure in question lives in complete secrecy in the capital. [passage omitted]

FIS Fighters Drive GIA out of Eastern Region

MM1112173895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Dec 95 pp 1,6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Algerian Islamic Salvation Front: Armed Islamic Group Responsible for Sahraoui's Assassination"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Abdallah Anas, Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Executive Committee member, has violently attacked the Islamic Armed Group [GIA] in Algeria. In an interview with AL-HAYAH he said that the FIS holds the GIA responsible for the assassination of its founding member, Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui, in Paris last July. He said that the FIS' position toward the GIA is the same as the GIA's toward it, in a reference to threats received by FIS officials if they did not join the GIA, and the refusal after today to keep silent about the GIA's actions.

In exclusive interviews, FIS officials have said that the GIA is responsible for the setback suffered by armed groups in their attempt, since 1992, to topple the Algerian regime. They said that the actions attributed to the GIA have indeed harmed the FIS and alienated the Algerian citizens from it and from the rest of the opposition. They also believe that the popular support enjoyed by President Liamine Zeroual in last month's elections is largely due to the people's dissatisfaction with the GIA's actions.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Despite the fact that FIS officials abroad are playing down reports of clashes between the GIA and the military arm of the FIS, the Islamic Salvation Army [ISA], reports from inside Algeria confirm that battles between the two sides have taken place. In a letter distributed last month and of which AL-HAYAH has obtained a copy, the AIS' "national amir" Shaykh Madani Mizrak said that his forces have clashed with GIA elements and "are in control of the situation in the field." He did not specify where the clashes took place, but information reaching AL-HAYAH indicates that that they took place in the regions of eastern Algeria and that "the GIA did in fact withdraw from there to the central regions and the capital, where they are subjected to heavy attacks from the security forces." In his letter (five foolscap pages dealing mainly with the call to boycott the elections), Mizrak said that some elements have tried to "fan the flames between the mujahidin groups and involve them in real infighting, by moving the mujahidin infiltrated among the intelligence services, the repudiation and renunciation group, and the greedy...and, regrettably, they have succeeded." He added: "The fact that some groups of villains and fools have started to act treacherously toward the genuine mujahidin has made us lose patience, albeit reluctantly, and forced us to confront their aggression, repel their tyranny, and put an end to a lengthy and painful situation whose evil has flourished and whose first victim to be burned by its flames was the people.... We promised the people to confront all future transgressions from any side, and thank God, after only a few weeks God helped us to overcome them, teach the aggressors among them a lesson, and control the situation in the field. We are now working to save those elements from all sides in whom good and truth can be sensed, and to put the Jihad house in order."

Prime Minister Urges Citizens to Work for Peace

LD1112144495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Dec 95

[Speech by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi to officials in Ghardaia Province; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God's prayers and peace be on the noblest of his messengers.

Members of the government, Governors, esteemed guests, ladies and gentlemen: May God's peace and blessings be on you.

I am very happy to be here in Ghardaia today, the historical, religious, cultural, and economic capital [of the south]. [passage omitted]

Those who did not believe in the elections and those who wanted to make them fail, those who doubted that the elections would be free and transparent, those who were overcome by fear, and those who kept silent have all lost and they must admit that. They made a mistake. Let the elections be a lesson to those who erred and a warning to those who continue to make mistakes. This warning is first of all addressed to the traitors of the nation, those terrorists who are living their last moments because they are rejected by the people, besieged by the security forces, and hunted by the patriots. They hide in the suburbs of the big cities and they continue their cowardly assassination of unarmed victims. They will not hide for long and the people will finally sweep them away.

Those who deviated from the straight and narrow and who followed them are now on the path of repentance and there are many of them. The fires of discord will be put out soon, God willing, and woe to those who purposely ignore the right path. This warning is also addressed to those politicians who procrastinated and who believed that it was quite legitimate to use the blood of our people to gain power. Repent before your people and pray to God Almighty for pardon and mercy because he is merciful.

Finally, the warning is also addressed to those foreign forces who, with all ease and haste, gambled on the collapse of Algeria and who today received a strong slap in the face from the Algerian voters. These nations must review their calculations quickly because their long-term interests in relations with our country depend on that.

Algeria won the challenge of the elections and will, God willing, come out of the political crisis very soon. [passage omitted]

We are here in order to ascertain the economic and social situation in this province, which is an important economic and social key location. In recent years Ghardaia saw concentrated development, thanks primarily to the work of its citizens. [passage omitted] However, Ghardaia has problems, and we have come here to listen to the representatives of the citizens who are more qualified to submit these problems to us. [passage omitted]

The slogan of the pioneers in America at the end of the last century used to be: Go west, young man [preceding four words spoken in English, followed by Arabic translation], and today the slogan of the Algerian pioneers is: Go south, young man [preceding four words spoken in English, followed by Arabic translation] because the south is the future of Algeria. [applause].

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

I would like to tell Algerian youth: Go south, because your future lies there.

Members of the Government, provincial governors, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Algeria scored a great victory on 16 November 1995, and celebrated this victory throughout the nation. Hope has returned. But our country still has enemies who are working covertly. Among those enemies we see those who oppose the break with the past. It will not be easy to put an end to them. [passage omitted]

The Algerian people today, and more than any time before, must remain united behind the president they have elected, conscious, mobilized, and vigilant so that our country will emerge as soon as possible from this crisis which has lasted too long.

Long live Algeria and may God's peace and blessings be on you!

Prosecution Office on Measures Against Editor

LD1112200095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] With regard to the measure taken by the courts against the editor of LIBERTE, the Public Prosecution Office at Algiers Judicial Council pointed out that the newspaper had previously published a false news item in its "Radar" corner on Thursday 7 December, instant, and denied it lock-stock-and-barrel on 9 December.

The Public Prosecution Office affirmed the deliberate publication of a false news item that was bound to encroach on other people's rights, and their private lives, let alone the effect that such rumors could have on public life and the stability of the institutions.

The Public Prosecution Office affirms to the national public opinion that the judiciary is carrying out its role in complete independence in applying the law, and that punitive legal proceedings have started in accordance with the stipulations of the law.

Crackdown on Journalists Said Due To 'Clan War'

LD1212112995 Paris Radio France International in French 0730 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian journalists have gone from the options of death or exile before the election of Zeroual a few weeks ago to those of submission or prison. These words could be read in the paper EL WATAN yesterday and were written by Omar Belhouchet, its director. This rumbling discontent with the authorities was, furthermore, making frontpage news across the whole of the independent press following the arrest of several journalists, including the director, of the French-language daily paper, LIBERTE, the day before yesterday. The independent press is furthermore launching a strike until the paper, which has been suspended, appears again. In the opinion of Hassan Ouandjeli, the editor in chief of the paper LIBERTE, who was also arrested then released shortly afterward, working conditions for journalists since Liamine Zeroual's election have deteriorated yet further. He spoke to Muriel Pomponne:

[Begin recording] [Ouandjeli] There was an incredible stimulus, so we thought that things were going to happen, that things were going to be sorted out, that things were going to improve. One has to believe that that is not the case, because now journalists are being caught in cross-fire twice over, on the one hand by the government, which wants to impose repression, and on the other by terrorists who aim to murder, slit throats, and mutilate.

[Pomponne] You say that you are caught in the cross-fire between the Islamists and the government. How do you explain that the government, which, after all, has just won the elections, is being so tough with the Algerian press at the moment?

[Ouandjeli] It is inexplicable unless one can conclude very, very quickly that there is a clan war at the top which they have not yet settled among themselves. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak on Terrorism, Peace, Vote on U.S. Embassy

NC1212084495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has reiterated that terrorism is an international phenomenon that has nothing to do with Islam or Muslims. He stressed that terrorists violate all religions, and he urged coordination among all countries to confront and contain terrorism as an indiscriminate threat to everybody.

In a statement to the weekly newspaper 'AQIDATI published today, President Mubarak said Egypt has highlighted the dangers of terrorism for the region and the world and he noted an international inclination to confront it.

He said the State's effort to solve economic and social problems is motivated, not by the need to resist terrorism, but by the desire to improve citizens' standard of living and to ease their suffering. He said major national projects are being implemented to advance the development process.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

President Mubarak said that when peace is achieved, the door to economic cooperation among the Middle East countries will be opened on the bilateral, regional, and international levels. He stressed that Egypt is committed to the interests of its people and the Arab nation.

The president reaffirmed Egypt's rejection of the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He said Egypt does not accept the decision no matter what the justification. He explained that Egypt deals with such developments, not in an emotional way or through ill-advised reactions, but in a calm and rational manner that uses every circumstance to serve Egypt's interests.

The president expressed optimism that Arab solidarity will be restored and stressed the need for further efforts and contacts to realize this objective.

President Mubarak denied any differences between the State and holy al-Azhar. He asserted that the State is interested in al-Azhar as a beacon of Islam that helped develop human thought and achieve progress for humanity out of the tolerant values of Islam.

He called on the ulema and preachers to open up to scientific progress and achievements and to respond to the spirit of the age. This is in harmony with Islam, which is a religion of moderation, far-removed from narrowmindedness, he said.

Mubarak Issues Decree Appointing Parliamentarians

NC1112171695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has issued a presidential decree. Here is the text: After referring to the Constitution, the following has been decided:

Article 1. Dr. Ahmad 'Umar Hashim, Dr. Ahmad Jalal 'Izz-al-Din, Dr. and Engineer Fathi Quzman Murqus, Dr. Edward Ghali Butrus al-Dahabi, Dr.Angel Butrus Sam'an, Ms. Yusriyah Nasif Luzah, Dr. Hana' Samir Jabrah Fahmi, Dr. George Philip Jirjis 'Azir, Dr. Nawal 'Abd- al-Min'im al-Tatawi, and Mr. Muhammad Muhammad Muhammad Abu-al-'Aaynayn have been appointed members of the People's Assembly;

Article 2. This decree shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued by the Presidential Office on Monday 18 Rajab 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 11 December 199[illegible].

President Mubarak also issued another presidential decree appointing Dr. Su'ad Kamil Rizq as member of the Consultative Council to succeed the late Nasri Wahbah Istafanus.

Musa, Japan's Envoy Discuss Investment, Peace

NC1112154495 Cairo MENA in English 1435 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa confered today with Japanese ambassador here Kunio Katakura [name as received] on means of enhancing bilateral cooperation in various domains.

The Japanese ambassador told reporters that the meeting tackled the possibility of increasing Japanese investments in various economic domains in Egypt.

The meeting further discussed developments of the Middle East peace process and the role which Japan can play to push forward the peace process in the region, Katakura added.

Musa Notes Need for Bosnia Aid, Heads for Paris

NC1212105395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for Frankfurt on his way to Paris today on a three-day visit to France during which he will participate in the meetings of the Islamic Contact Group [on Bosnia-Herzegovina]. He said upon departure that he will also attend the joint meeting of the Islamic and international contact groups and the official ceremony for the final signing of the Bosnian peace agreement.

The foreign minister said there is no contradiction in the positions of the Islamic countries on the Bosnian agreement, since the Bosnians themselves have signed it. He said many Islamic countries are prepared to participate in peacekeeping missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He expressed his belief that the Islamic countries that have peacekeeping troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina must contribute to the financing of these troops. He noted that there is no budget to finance the peacekeepers.

Musa Marks World Human Rights Day, Discusses Bosnia

NC1112210995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA) — Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that the final signing of the Bosnian peace accord in Paris on 14 December will put an end to the tragedy of a nation that has suffered the worst forms of bloody violence.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Musa said: In our assessment, the Dayton accord does not mean that the curtain has come down on the crimes committed against the Bosnian people. He noted that there is no room for talk about forming human rights committees in Bosnia without expeditiously making the war criminals stand trial so that they will be given the punishment they deserve; and he added that the victims and the wronged people also must be compensated.

This came in Musa's address, delivered on his behalf by Ambassador Na'ilah Jabr, director of human rights at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, at a ceremony today marking International Human Rights Day at Cairo University.

Musa stressed that the Bosnian tragedy is a crime abhorred by human conscience and a testimony to politicizing human rights issues and using double standards to deal with them. In his address, the Egyptian foreign minister denounced the reluctance by some international parties to rush to the aid of the oppressed people of that region. He referred to the interference of designs and interests in this conflict that delayed for three years a peaceful settlement. During this time, he added, innocent people gave their blood, lives, and dignity as a price for reluctance, hesitation, and weakness.

Musa said that with its bitterness and cruelty, this experience explains to us that human rights are not just international documents to be signed and principles and criteria to be agreed upon. Rather, he added, they essentially are to train and teach individuals and society of particular rules of behavior. He noted that these rules are based on tolerating others, disagreement, and on ethnic and cultural diversity. He added: These principles are our means of engaging in dialogue with others and making peace with others. We have established these principles in our capacity as a primary party responsible for supporting and perpetuating peace in the Middle East. He noted that this concept was emphasized in Egypt's suggested solutions to bloody issues in Africa when it proposed the establishment of an African mechanism to settle disputes. This concept, he added, was also clarified during the Barcelona conference with the European countries.

Musa said: If, as developing nations, we have focused during the past two decades on the importance of issues of development and their direct relationship to respecting and enhancing human rights principles and patterns, we also must focus in the coming stage on the importance of cultural issues and their direct impact on human rights.

He emphasized that the cultural dimension has now become a basis for dialogue with others. He said: We have examined their ideology, accepted some of their criteria, and indeed joined many international human rights charters taking into account their agreement with our rituals, values, and tolerant religion. He added: Today we ask them to be close to us in their thought, to read our literature, understand our culture and characteristics, and reassess their past ideas and wrong images of all nations of the region we share.

Near the end of his speech, Musa called for (?establishing) a firm foundation to form the basis for respecting the rights of individuals, groups, and nations through effective and genuine international cooperation far removed from falsity, politicalization, and double standards. He said that this must happen before mutual trust, which is lacking, can be built.

Attending the ceremony were Dr. Mufid Shihab, Cairo University president and chairman of the Association of Human Rights Supporters in Egypt, and Sayf-al-Din Yawir, UN representative in Egypt, who represented Dr. Butrus Ghali.

Human Rights Activist Summoned for Interrogation

NC1112151695 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Dec 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Izzat Sulayman, a researcher of legal issues at the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights [EOHR], was summoned before the State Security Intelligence Department [SSID] because of her interview with the BBC.

The researcher had prepared a detailed report on abuses that wives of political detainees have received. In her report, she monitored 15 documented cases of abuse. She explored this issue in her interview with the BBC on the "Nun al-Niswah" program.

Less than 24 hours after the interview was broadcast, she was summoned by the SSID. Her home in Imbabah was searched and her husband, Nasirite attorney Yasir 'Abd-al-Jawad, was detained at the SSID headquarters in al-Jizah.

The security authorities asked the researcher to submit an official apology to the Interior Ministry and to refute her report to the BBC. Upon refusing, she was threatened with the referal of the matter to a higher body and that she would be charged with slandering the state and contacting a foreign quarter.

Meanwhile, the EOHR will publish the researcher's report in a special edition next month.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Embassy Rejects Newspaper Report On Hit-Squads

MS0712094595 London INDEPENDENT in English 7 Dec 95 p 15

[Report by Michael Sheridan: "Egypt Denies Hit Squads"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Egyptian embassy in London has denied a report in yesterday's INDEPENDENT that the Egyptian government has sent up to 100 men from its security service to hunt down its opponents in Britain.

"The Egyptian embassy denies categorically the news report," an official statement said. "This has never been the case nor is it Egyptian policy." The embassy described the report as "groundless and pure imagination," adding that "Egypt is well known to be a country which respects international law and does not interfere in any way in the internal affairs of any country." A Foreign Office spokesman said the report was without foundation.

The INDEPENDENT quoted a reliable military source in Cairo as saying that the agents began arriving in London last month and their mission was to hunt down Islamic fundamentalists against whom the government of President Husni Mubarak is engaged in a ruthless campaign in Egypt.

U.S. Ambassador Denies Protesting Election Outcome

NC1212072995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2306 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA) — U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker has categorically denied a report published by AL-SHA'B, mouthpiece of the opposition Labor Party, saying that the U.S. Administration has expressed doubts about the result of the parliamentary elections in Egypt.

Following his meeting with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa tonight, the ambassador said in reply to correspondents' questions: The AL-SHA'B report is a fabrication. He stressed that he made no protest to the foreign minister over the election result. He added: I have made no protest to any Egyptian official and demanded no investigation of the issue.

On his meeting with Musa, the U.S. ambassador said: I briefed him on issues relating to the Security Council, which Egypt has recently joined. We also discussed many issues and exchanged views and consultations on them, issues like Bosnia and the situation in Iraq in light of the continuing sanctions imposed on it. He added that he and Musa also discussed Security Council reform, which was just one of the many issues discussed.

On the Bosnian agreement to be signed in Paris on Thursday [14 December], Ambassador Walker said: Washington hopes the agreement will be signed and looks forward to a satisfactory solution. He expressed the hope that the Dayton agreement will end tension in the Balkan region.

Regarding developments in the Middle East peace process, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track, the U.S. ambassador said: We are awaiting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region soon so that we might determine developments on this track.

Ambassador Badr Hammam, the assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs, who attended the meeting, said: The meeting was held in line with Egyptian-U.S. relations and as part of the exchange of views on issues relating to peace and developments on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks. Progress on the Palestinian track was also discussed.

Ambassador Hammam added that the meeting also touched on Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to the United States, regional issues, Egyptian and U.S. interest in these issues, the recent meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Muscat, Oman, and the situation in Iraq.

He added that Egypt and the United States have an important and influential role in the region because the two countries have a major role in making peace. Egypt's role is a leading and vital one.

On discussions between 'Amr Musa and the U.S. ambassador regarding Iraq, Ambassador Hammam said they discussed the situation in Iraq. He noted that Egypt is focusing on the Iraqi people's overwhelming suffering. He said: I believe the humanitarian and emotional aspect that links us with an Arab people concerns Egypt and many Arab peoples. He stressed that the Iraqi people should not be punished for their leadership's irresponsible actions.

Concluding his statement, the assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs stressed that the positions voiced by President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Musa are clear, namely, that we are working to ease the Iraqi people's suffering. He said: The Iraqi people know who is responsible for this crisis but their continuing agony and suffering could deepen their feelings of hatred and hostility in a region in which we are making peace and trying to defuse the old hostility and hatred and resulting conflict and war. He added: The peace process in the region requires that these hostilities be defused. The peoples in the region must be given new awareness and hope in peace, construction, and coexistence.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Papers Discuss Post-Election Issues, Opposition

NC1212074895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0630 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA) — In their editorials today, the Cairo newspapers stress that the stage after the People's Assembly elections requires all the sides, including political parties inside and outside parliament, to do their utmost to advance development and achieve progress.

Under the headline "Tasks of the Upcoming Stage," AL-AHRAM says: We are heading toward a difficult period that needs extra efforts for action and achievement in every area and every direction.

The paper reviews the problems Egypt is facing and says everyone's efforts are needed because futile conflicts will not only obstruct Egypt's efforts to realize its national objectives, but will push the country backward.

Under the headline "Issues Before the New People's Assembly," AL-JUMHURIYAH says the chief tasks now are to strengthen the democratic march and attract ordinary citizens to political work.

This is achieved, the paper says, when peoples' confidence in their elected deputies is consolidated by the deputies working to serve the public interest and exercising their political role and their function as watchdogs without fanaticism, stubbornness, or any attempt to serve narrow personal interests.

Under the headline "How Can We Handle the Shortage of Oppositionists?", AL-AKHBAR says the power of opposition is not measured by how few opposition members there are in parliament. We saw parliaments before the revolution that had only a few opposition members. Yet they were more influential and had a stronger voice than tens or hundreds of government deputies.

The paper hopes the opposition influence will be felt in the new parliament.

IMF Official: 'No Economic Reasons' To Devalue Currency

NC1012081595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0610 GMT 10 Dec 95

[Figures as received]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA) — Dr. 'Abd-al-Shakur Sha'lan, a representative of Arab states and member of the IMF board of directors, has said Egypt has scored a considerable achievement in its economic reform program and that there is no disagreement between Egypt and the IMF. Dr. Sha'lan added that the IMF is convinced of the Egyptian viewpoint, not because of its tolerance, but because the fund believes Egypt has performed the "duties" of its economic reform program and made great progress in developing unconventional exports and putting forward an ambitious program for structural reform.

Dr. Sha'lan told AL-AHRAM today that the IMF board of directors held a four-hour meeting on 22 September during its annual meeting with member states, on the recommendation of an IMF mission visiting Egypt. At the meeting the fund issued a decision affirming that Egypt has scored a considerable achievement and that there are no economic reasons to devalue the Egyptian pound, he said. He said exports have started to grow, achieving a rate exceeding 70 percent. Exports other than oil and cotton increased 60 percent in the fiscal year 1994/95, he said. He added that national income is recovering, hence there is no economic reason to devalue the Egyptian currency.

Dr. Sha'lan ruled out a rise in energy prices, both electricity and gasoline, since Egypt has reached the world price for these services and for agricultural products, primarily cotton.

The IMF official added that the fund and Egypt are not negotiating a subsidy, since Egypt has done away with any subsidy, except that on bread. He pointed out that the government insisted on maintaining a subsidy on bread to protect the low-income groups. He said the bank did not object to that as long as the government can cover the subsidy without burdening the budget.

Dr. Sha'lan pointed out that Egypt will start negotiating with the IMF on liberating trade in 1996 to reduce the customs tariff to 50 percent rather than the current 70 percent.

He reiterated that all the signs indicate economic improvement in Egypt, since the State budget deficit dropped to 1.6 percent in 1995/96, while inflation dropped to 8.5 percent. He noted a surplus amounting to $2 billion in the balance of payments and a 4.5-percent increase in national income in 1994/95, expected to reach 5 percent in 1995/96. He added that exports increased by over 70 percent this year, which proves the soundness of the Egyptian viewpoint. He explained that the drop in exports by some 19 percent in the past two years was attributed to diminished exports to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and that Egypt generated alternative markets in these two years.

The IMF board member said Egypt does not need loans or facilities. It needs investment, he said, adding that this requires improvements in the private investment arena to attract direct investment. He added that this means more flexible laws and less bureaucracy.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Denmark To Extend 80 Million Kroner in Aid

NC1012171995 Cairo MENA in English 1432 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA) — Egypt and Denmark signed an agreement today that provides Egypt with 80 million Danish kroner, equivalent to 50 million Egyptian pounds, to finance a quality control programme to lower the level of pollution in the densely populated areas.

The agreement was signed by Minister of State for International Cooperation Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali and the Danish ambassador to Egypt.

Denmark places great weight on Egypt's problems of pollution, Dr. Ghali said after the signing.

This year, it has granted Egypt for the programme on environment protection almost 65 million Egyptian pounds, he added.

Daily Criticizes Russian-Israeli Military Cooperation

NC1212065995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA) — The newspaper AL-AHRAM says Russian policy is currently confused, with President Yeltsin unwell and efforts being made to reduce the influence of Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is accused of leaning toward the West and pursuing a U.S. policy. This has increased the role of Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

In its Tuesday [12 December] editorial, AL-AHRAM says Russian foreign policy is confused and unclear, such that it has signed a military cooperation agreement with Israel. This means Moscow is taking brisk steps on a path that will cost it the remains of its role as a former superpower. The paper notes that if things continue like this in Russia, it will cause more domestic disturbances, which could be a backward step.

Libya

Head of UK Interest Section To Be Expelled

LD1112202995 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation this evening summoned Italy's Ambassador Agostino Mathis, whose country is looking after British interests in the Great Jamahiriyah. The Italian ambassador was informed that David Hawkes, head of the British Interests Section, had been declared persona non-grata for carrying out activities incompatible with his diplomatic status.

David Hawkes will have to leave the Great Jamahiriyah before 25 December.

U.S. Said 'Nose-Sticking' in Egypt's Affairs

LD1212094395 Tripoli JANA in English 0828 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, al Kanoun [Dec] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — America is resuming its coveting and its nose-sticking in the most delicate of internal affairs in Egypt, and matters that are highly sensitive and do not concern America in any way. Informed sources at the American Senate have confirmed to the newspaper 'AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI' which is published in London that a large number of Senate members proposed a draft calling for conducting investigations in the process of electing the Egyptian People's Council members. The members of the Senate have made a clear link between the investigations and the American aid to Egypt, in an extortionist manner.

The newspaper AL-QUDS quoted the deputy chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Senate as strongly criticizing the process of electing the People's Council members in Egypt. She said in a seminar held in American university of George Washington that American foreign aid is offered for political purposes.

She added that the American assistance offered to Egypt did not contribute in the creation of what it called a stable government in Egypt.

Association Condemns 'Unjust Measures' by UN

LD1012104595 Tripoli JANA in English 0854 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 10, JANA — The International Direct Democracy Research Association condemned the unjust measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah by the Western countries through the so-called Security Council calling for the lifting of these measures.

In a message of condemnation to the American president during his recent visit to Ireland, the association asserted that the measures imposed at the behest of America and the Western countries were immoral and contrary to the spirit of the U.N. Charter.

The association reiterated that measures were especially unjust since they were imposed on the basis of unproven accusations.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The International Direct Democracy Research Association is a Dublin based international non-governmental organisation.

Morocco

14 Indicted for Algerian Islamic Arms Trafficking

LD0912191995 Paris Radio France International in French 1730 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Morocco 14 people, four of them Algerian, have been indicted with arms trafficking for the Algerian Islamists. Thirteen other people, arrested in October, have been freed for lack of sufficient evidence.

Opposition Leader Calls For Political Reforms

LD1112134195 Rabat MAP in English 1305 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Dec.11 (MAP) — The leader of the Moroccan Socialist Party Union Socialiste Des Forces Populaires (USFP, opposition), Abderrahman Youssoufi, called for political and constitutional reforms in Morocco in order, he said, to meet the country's needs.

Youssoufi who was addressing a meeting Saturday of the members of the USFP Political Bureau said the country needs a 'strong and homogeneous government emerging from a parliament reflecting the reality and the will of the people and benefitting from the trust of the king and the support of the public opinion'.

Morocco, he added, needs a change in accordance with the importance of the problems and challenges facing it. 'A change that would concern the country's institutions and their strategies for global development'.

Youssoufi called the acting government, made of right wing political parties, to carry out a clear program that would pave the way for economic, social, cultural and administrative reforms .

These reforms, he said, would allow the country to win the challenge of the year 2010 and pursue its development process.

Sudan

Iraqi Planes Reportedly Release Napalm in South

NC1112162495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Paris-based magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has published a report by its correspondent in Khartoum headlined "The Iraqi Republican Guard in South Sudan."

The report states that 150 Iraqi military experts have arrived in south Sudan. Iraqi military vehicles have also arrived with the insignia "Iraqi Republican Guard" written on the back of the vehicles. The Iraqi military experts are fighting on the side of the Sudanese Government forces against the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA].

Western reports have also confirmed that Iraqi officers, soldiers, and vehicles arrived in Sudan following the SPLA's capture of the town of Koret in southwest Sudan.

The AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI correspondent affirmed that Iraqi Air Force planes have released napalm in the town of (Baydur) in south Sudan.

Group Urges Intervention, Release of Prisoners

NC1112153795 Cairo MENA in English 1408 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA) — The "Sudanese Group for the Victims of Torture" has appealed to the international community and the different regional and international centres and agencies to promptly interfere and pressure the Sudanese regime to stop detention and torture campaigns and free political prisoners.

The group said, in the statement, received by MENA today, that Sudanese security bodies sent former Minister of Housing and Public Utilities 'Uthman 'Umar al-Sharis to an unidentified destination after his address given before a symposium, held by students at the non-governmental University of Ommdurman.

Sudanese security refused to say a word on the location where the former minister is detained, the statement added.

The statement described the Sudanese regime as oppressive and that it disregards all international conventions and laws.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Oman

Qabus Receives U.S. Vice President's Message

JN1112182495 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1445 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat, 11 Dec (WAKH) — His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman has received a written message from U.S. Vice President Albert Gore.

Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for cabinet affair, received the message in a meeting today with Jane Kaliki [name as transliterated], U.S. vice president envoy and adviser at the U.S. Trade Department. Discussions touched on relations between the two friendly countries and the means of boosting existing cooperation. The two sides also reviewed a number of regional and international issues and developments of concern to the two countries.

In this regard, the U.S. envoy paid tribute to Oman's vital role and serious, wise, long-term steps. He also praised Oman's progress and prosperity and pioneering efforts in support of peace and stability in the region.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Ministry Denies Incident on Yemeni Border

LD1112231195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2228 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 11 Dec (SPA) — A well-informed source at the Ministry of DefenSe and Aviation has denied a report carried today by the Associated Press, quoting a source at the Yemeni Foreign Ministry, about an attempted incursion into Yemeni territory by Saudi troops and about Saudi troop movements near the border.

In a statement to SPA, the source said that the Associated Press report is absolutely untrue and that it lacks accuracy and objectivity. The source added that this report is falsely attributed to the said ministry.

The well-informed source concludes the statement by saying that "the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is eager to cooperate with the brothers in the Republic of Yemen, proceeding from the memorandum of mutual understanding signed by the two countries during the month of Ramadan last year."

Yemen

Egypt Envoy Denies Teams To Liquidate Terrorists

NC0912105895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0930 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 9 Dec (MENA)— Egyptian Ambassador in Sanaa 'Adil Subhi has denied false reports circulating in the Yemeni capital about the arrival of Egyptian teams posing as tourists to liquidate Egyptian terrorist elements in Yemen.

The ambassador in a statement today assured that these reports are totally groundless distortions of facts. He noting that Egypt does not engage in such acts that oppose international laws and criteria and are inconsistent with its role, status, and international relations.

The ambassador expressed his full satisfaction with the existing security cooperation between the Egyptian and Yemeni authorities, noting that the Yemeni authorities recently enhanced security around the embassy and all Egyptian installations in Yemen. He remarked that this is in line with historic relations between Egypt and Yemen.

Interview With Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ghani

96AE0007A Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
14 Oct 95 pp 8-9

[Interview with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani by unidentified correspondents in Sanaa; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-THAWRAH] Brother Prime Minister, where has the economic, financial, and administrative reform program reached?

['Abd-al-Ghani] We began implementing the financial and administrative reform program last March, following a Council of Ministers' decision and a long and detailed study. The economic situation was bad, and we needed to correct it. The economy suffered because of the war ignited by the separatists. This war cost our people dearly in blood and resources. The economy also suffered because of the violations that took place during the interim period before the war. The Gulf crisis also had greatly affected the country's economy. One significant negative effect of this crisis was the return of Yemeni expatriates. Their remittances had constituted the backbone of the Yemeni economy and Yemen's main source of foreign currency.

The decisions made during the first stage of the financial and administrative reform program are known. They were primarily designed to reduce the budget deficit. When we were preparing the 1995 draft budget, we discovered that it will involve a very big deficit. If we did nothing about this deficit, the economic crisis would become worse. Therefore, we needed to take measures to reduce this deficit. To increase state revenues we imposed taxes on cigarettes, raised the price of gasoline, and so forth. I can confirm that so far the results have been positive. We have halted the quick economic deterioration. The currency rate, which positively or negatively reflects on the economic

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

situation, is beginning to stabilize. After a fast increase in the exchange rate, the situation has now changed and a big improvement has occurred in the rate of the Yemeni rial. God willing, we will achieve a stable exchange rate. This coincided with improvement in the relations with the brothers in Saudi Arabia. This improvement was crowned by the brother president's visit to Saudi Arabia, his summit meeting with the servant of the two holy mosques, and the restoration of normal trade relations.

It is natural that the relations should be this way. We hope that this normalization will restore the situation to what it was before, particularly with regard to the freedom of movement between the two countries and the return of the expatriates. There are good signs that this will happen, based on a statement by Saudi Interior Minister His Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz regarding Yemeni workers.

Furthermore, these measures coincided with the brother president's visit to some fraternal and friendly states. Besides the financial and administrative reform measures, this development in foreign relations also reflects on the economic situation.

[AL-THAWRAH] Brother Prime Minister, can you give us an idea about the second stage of the financial and economic reform program? Will it proceed in the same direction as the first stage? Will the citizen shoulder more burdens during the second stage or will he begin to benefit?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Whatever measures we adopt ultimately aim to achieve the citizen's interests. If we had left matters as they were and adopted no measures, the citizen would have suffered more. For example, if the exchange rate continued to deteriorate, it will reflect on the prices of goods. The increase in the price of goods will affect the citizen's standard of living. We adopted austerity measures. The increase in gasoline prices and the increased taxes on cigarettes will have a good effect on the prices of other goods. The increase in state revenues will reduce the budget deficit. The reduction in the budget deficit means that the state will not have to print more money, thus leading to stability in the exchange rate.

Besides these measures, we have adopted banking measures. We have raised the interest rate to encourage saving. There is nothing easy in economic reform. The easy thing would have been to leave matters as they were, but then economic chaos would prevail and everyone would lose. Some might think that certain people would benefit. This is not true, because the damage eventually would affect everyone.

The austerity measures have caused stability in the exchange rate, which is a major indicator of the economic situation among the people. At one point the people were using the dollar for investment. When the value of the riyal stabilized, the people regained confidence in their national currency and stopped changing their savings into foreign currency, however harsh the measures may appear, their effect will be good for the people.

If the state had the ability and resources to subsidize some commodities, it would do so, but when it does not have this ability, it must charge the real price for the service or commodity it provides to the people. Otherwise, we will find ourselves in a situation where we cannot provide this commodity or service.

Take, for example, water and electricity. We are currently subsidizing water and electricity. The state is just receiving less than half the price of the electricity it is providing to the people. The result is that the electricity authority cannot function properly and we have power cuts. The authority cannot pay for spare parts and for modernizing the installations. We cannot borrow money for electricity, because financial institutions say: if we lend you the money, we are not sure that you can repay the loans, because you sell electricity almost free. This is a fact. We indeed are unable to repay the loans for electricity. The same thing applies to water. The result is that water projects are being suspended and water is wasted. The people are paying for water much more than they pay now to the state. Some citizens pay 500 rials for a tanker of water because the water does not get to them or because a fault does not allow water to reach them. They need the water. The state is unable to bring water to them, because it does not have the resources. A water tanker is sufficient for three to four days. If a citizen pays 100 riyals to the state for water, he says this is too much. Even farmers leave their water pumps running until they stop working. They even leave them running at night. The result is that the water level continues to drop annually and they need to drill deeper for water.

[AL-THAWRAH] Some people say that the government wants to privatize electricity. Is this true?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Privatization is on the agenda for projects that we can shift from the public sector to the private sector. The private sector should be able to operate and manage these projects and not turn them into a monopoly that could harm the people's interests. Everyone knows that electricity and water and all projects now in state hands began as a private business. The Sanaa, Dhumar, Ta'izz, al-Mukalla, and Abyan electricity authorities were private. A semi-independent authority existed in Aden. The airline

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

business was private in Aden and Sanaa. The water projects were also private. The Yemeni people have initiated these projects, however, when these projects became expensive and could only be financed with foreign loans, the state was forced to take them from the private sector. The private sector reached a stage where it was unable to expand these services. The private sector also could not secure easy loans like the state to establish such projects.

When we announced the privatization measures and offered some projects to the private sector, we found some response to some industrial projects. We are now trying to complete the deals.

I personally think that the private sector cannot pay hundreds of millions of dollars for the electricity, airlines, or cement plants, however, the private sector can establish new projects to compete with the government. There is no risk to anyone seeking to establish electricity, airline, cement, or water companies, if they can undertake such projects. The private sector can compete in these fields as it does in the oil sector.

[AL-THAWRAH] Brother Prime Minister, you said that the exchange rate was a good indicator of the success of the first stage of the economic reform program. Rumors are circulating that the state intends to raise the official exchange rate to 70 riyals. Are these rumors true? What new measures you intend to take to stabilize the exchange rate after the Central Bank has exhausted all measures, including raising the interest rate?

['Abd-al-Ghani] The exchange rate can be viewed as an indicator of other economic activities. One cannot only take measures regarding the exchange rate and leave the other activities. We are trying to bring the deficit down to its lowest level or even to end it and then start having a surplus. The exchange rate reflects offer and demand in the market, the people's confidence in the national currency, and the country's foreign relations. We need foreign currency to purchase goods. We buy much of our needs abroad. This includes food, clothing, building materials, machines, equipment, and luxuries. The demand for foreign currency is very big. More than 90 percent of every riyal we spend is in foreign currency, because even the local materials we consume contain foreign components and ingredients.

We must first increase our domestic production to compensate for imports. This demands that we encourage investment, turn to agriculture and industry, and dispense with foreign services. This needs time. The government is trying, by all means, to encourage investment and offer incentives. Many citizens have begun turning to investment. We are also reducing the budget deficit either by cutting expenses or increasing revenues. This will stabilize the exchange rate. We are trying to achieve a balanced economy where the exchange rate would reflect the strength of the economy. In the past, some political and psychological aspects reflected on the economy, however, when we overcame these aspects, we achieved some sort of stability.

[AL-THAWRAH] The electricity issue and the water issue in Ta'izz are causing many problems. Do you have any solutions, even temporary ones, to these vital issues?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes. Regarding the electricity issue, as you know, the Makha' [as transliterated] power station was hit during the war. Two of the station's units went out of action. We have tried to repair them. Nevertheless, faults still occur from time to time, because the damage to the generators was extensive. The government has adopted measures and allocated funds to purchase spare parts for these units. The increase in consumption is a major cause of this problem. When electrification plans were made in the past, Sanaa was a small city, and we had power surplus. Sanaa, al-Mukalla, and Aden are big cities now. They have expanded particularly after the merger. Power consumption has increased, because the standard of living has risen. People now have televisions, refrigerators, heaters, and washing machines that require electricity. The big population growth was not anticipated. Now, we have a shortage of power in Sanaa, because of the heavy consumption. We are currently negotiating for a quick solution to the problem in Sanaa and in Hadhramout. God willing, we will overcome this problem soon. These problems will stay with us for some time until we overcome them. We are considering building a gas-operated power station in Ma'rib or Sanaa. We are aware of the problem and realize that the people want a solution now. They wonder why it was not done a year ago.

Water is also a vital and important issue. The people should play a role in helping the government by rationalizing the use of water whether in irrigation or drinking. When water reached the villages and taps were installed in every house, people began consuming more water than before. We are facing a problem of water shortage, particularly in drought seasons. We do not have water resources. In some areas, there are no places to drill wells, even if we wanted to. The Ta'izz area is mainly rocky. Unlike Sanaa, Ma'rib, or the coastal areas, the Ta'izz area is mainly rocky and the ground does not conserve rain water. The people should cooperate with the government in rationalizing water consumption. Water will remain a problem in the future.

[AL-THAWRAH] The water problem in Ta'izz demands a quick solution?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

['Abd-al-Ghani] We drilled several wells in the town and connected them directly to the water network. Some neighborhoods in Ta'izz have begun to benefit from this. The others will benefit from the wells which we are currently drilling.

We are considering building two dams, one in Wadi Warzan and other in the Bani 'Amr area. The problem in Ta'izz is that much rain water falls, but no one knows where it goes.

[AL-THAWRAH] What is the situation regarding the sewage project in the capital?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Regarding the sewage system, we had two offers for a sewage treatment plant in Sanaa. Regrettably, these offers were suspended after the Gulf war. We received one Italian and one British offer. We are currently negotiating with the Arab Monetary Fund to finance the water treatment station. A delegation from the Fund will arrive for this purpose.

[AL-THAWRAH] Is it true that the government has spent 39 million [no currency specified] on temporary solutions to the sewage problem in the capital?

['Abd-al-Ghani] This money was spent to buy pipes to take the sewage away from the city and to drill wells for people whose wells were contaminated.

[AL-THAWRAH] Regarding the increase in imported goods, people are wondering whether they enter the country legally or they are smuggled. The private sector and owners of local industries have reportedly complained about this matter, and some factories have closed. Can you clarify this matter?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Some merchants have complained when we imported foreign goods. We want to protect the national industry, but this does not mean that it should monopolize the market. We want the national industry to improve the quality of its products and compete with foreign goods. When the relations with our brothers were normalized, trade between the two countries resumed. They receive our agricultural and industrial products and we receive their products. All imported goods pass through customs. The quality of the products is good and the prices are fair. We support whatever benefits the people. We encourage local production. However, we are against monopoly or bad product quality.

[AL-THAWRAH] What can you tell us about connecting Yemen to the Arab electrification project currently being planned in the area?

['Abd-al-Ghani] There is an Arab project consisting of a major power grid that runs through Oman. If conditions and resources become available, Yemen will undoubtedly utilize it.

[AL-THAWRAH] Preparations are currently under way for the first five-year plan. A conference will be held for this purpose. Meanwhile, preparations are also being made for next year's budget. How do you reconcile between the financing of projects under the five-year plan and the financing of projects in the budget? What are the results of the current consultations with the World Bank and the IMF to secure their support for this plan?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Regarding the five-year plan, we found out that we need such a plan, because, in the past, projects were not being implemented in the way they should. We were criticized for this failure. We contracted for big loans, but were unable to carry out the projects. The outside world offered us loans, but we could not use them. This is a big shame. We tried to secure new loans. Their reaction was: use what you already have before we give you new loans. Thank God, projects financed with foreign loans are currently being implemented. We need a long-range plan to help us use our resources as best as possible. Such a plan will also help us to secure outside help. In the next plan, we want to establish productive projects. We have gone a long way in infrastructure projects, such as roads and services, despite some shortcomings. W must now turn to industrial projects, and continue with agricultural projects. Much progress has been done in the agricultural field, particularly in irrigation, the use of agricultural machinery, improvement of seeds, and the use of pesticides. Now we will turn to industrial production and tourism. We will also continue to encourage investment in oil and minerals. These are the kind of plans that we are making. Our plans will be consistent with free market economy.

They must plan everything for the public sector, the private sector, the joint sector, or the cooperatives' sector. These are the four sectors on which our economy is based. We want to include the private sector in our plans, because this sector is part of the national wealth and the country's resources. We do not want the private sector to proceed without planning and get involved in losing enterprises.

As for your question about reconciling between the annual budget and the five-year plan, the plan, of course, will have certain economic indicators before we approve it. We will know the projects it is designed to achieve. We, therefore, can include the plan's first year projects in the 1996 budget. We are thinking of how to mobilize local resources and acquaint the private sector and the citizens with the projects and fields to which

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

investments can be directed. We want also to acquaint the outside world and all the brothers and friends of the investment opportunities in this country.

[AL-THAWRAH] Some people say that the 200-percent customs on cars will encourage smuggling. What is your opinion?

['Abd-al-Ghani] The customs fee is 130 percent. It is true that lowering customs will prevent smuggling. However, there is always an incentive for smuggling as long as there are customs, however small they may be. The purpose of imposing customs on imports is not only to finance the state treasury, but also to rationalize consumption, particularly of luxury goods.

[AL-THAWRAH] Bazar'ah imports 600 cars legally, and hundreds of other cars enter the country illegally?

['Abd-al-Ghani] If cars are not taxed on entering the country, they will eventually be taxed when their owners register them.

[AL-THAWRAH] What is your expectations regarding the coalition between the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Grouping for Reform? Do you expect it to continue to the end of the term?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes. The coalition has been in existence for one year. It has been useful and productive. We experienced a year of stability under a democratic and multi-party system. The alliance between the Congress and the Yemeni Grouping for Reform is strategic and will continue, God willing, until the end of the present parliamentary term. The door is open for its continuation after that. If we take this year as an example and based on the understanding between the two parties, I think that this alliance could continue for a long time.

[AL-THAWRAH] The Yemeni share in the gas project is reportedly not large. What can you tell us about it?

['Abd-al-Ghani] The idea before was that any investor can have a 100-percent share in the gas project, because it requires $3 billion or $4 billion. The final cost has not been determined yet. Other factors, such as where the pipeline should extend, the cost of the gas liquefying plant, the value of other installations, and the ships that will carry the gas, should be considered. We called for an international bid and set the terms for our share in the revenues. Gas is different from oil. Investment in gas projects is very high compared with oil. In oil projects, a company will drill a well and extend a pipe from the installation to the sea terminal for loading on ships. Gas requires a liquefying plant, which is very expensive. The ships that carry the gas are also very costly, because they are specially equipped to maintain the liquidity of the gas from the time it leaves the terminal until it arrives. We do not have the resources to embark on such investment. When we called for bids, we demanded that companies should contribute toward the government's share. The Total Company has agreed to finance 8 percent of the government's share. We are currently negotiating to finance the remaining part of our share in the project.

[AL-THAWRAH] The Council of Ministers has recently adopted measures to protect our fish resources against foreign piracy. It also adopted measures to exploit our fish resources. Can you clarify this matter?

['Abd-al-Ghani] We devote much attention to our fish resources because they are a renewable source, like agriculture or even better. We encourage investment in our fish rich coastal line that extends for 2,000 km. We wish to see fish supplies reaching areas far from the coast to reduce the consumption of imported meat and paultry. We import many components of the paultry industry, such as paultry feed, eggs, and chicks. We encourage fishermen by giving them loans to develop their fishing industry. We also provide the infrastructure, such as fishing ports, cold storage facilities, and marketing means to sell the fish and make some profit. The fishing business is tiring. Regrettably, violations have taken place by unlicensed fishermen. They fish in a criminal way. They catch the fish in their breeding area, destroying our fish resources. We have adopted strict measures against the violators.

[AL-THAWRAH] Yesterday we published a report about eight fishing boats that have illegally entered our territorial waters and been detained with 70 tons of fish. The fishermen were referred to the prosecution.

['Abd-al-Ghani] The quantity was larger: 160 tons. This was just one case. We have detained many violators. Some of them had a license, but they violated the conditions of their license. Others did not have a license. We have decided to take strict measures against anyone violating the conditions and specifications provided by the Fish Resources Ministry.

[AL-THAWRAH] We have covered two issues. The third issue we would like to raise is the relations with the neighboring states. Why the security agreement has not been signed with the brothers in Saudi Arabia? What are the general outlines of this agreement? Does it deal with political matters or only with security matters? If it were signed, what could this agreement add to the process of Yemeni-Saudi relations?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Regarding the security agreement between the two countries, what remains is to set the time to sign it. The draft agreement was approved by the brothers in Saudi Arabia. We just need to set a time for

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

a meeting between the two ministers in the two countries. The agreement deals with criminal violations and provides for the extradition of criminals and combating drug trafficking. On the political level, we have the al-Ta'if agreement and the memorandum of understanding that covered this aspect. The memorandum of understanding was clear in calling for ending any hostile action between the two countries.

[AL-THAWRAH] Why has your visit to Egypt been delayed?

['Abd-al-Ghani] The visit will take place; only the timing has changed. We were involved in our people's celebration of the revolution anniversary in September and October. Our relations with our brothers in Egypt are strong, and broad horizons for cooperation between us exist.

[AL-THAWRAH] What is Yemen's position on the Middle Eastern market proposal and the Amman economic conference?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Regarding the Amman economic summit, we will participate in it because we are part of this area. We do not want to be isolated from what happens in this area. Fraternal Jordan has invited Yemen to attend this conference, and Yemen will attend it.

[AL-THAWRAH] Our people are marking the 32d anniversary of the glorious October revolution. Can you tell us what are the prospects for the future?

['Abd-al-Ghani] On this occasion, we extend our congratulations to the Yemeni people, who made the 26 September and the 14 October revolutions. We ask God to have mercy on the revolution's martyrs. We are proud of the Yemeni revolution's accomplishments and look with hope and optimism to the future. The Yemeni people have achieved the noblest goal of the revolution, which is restoring unity. This has opened broad horizons for the Yemeni people to realize all their aspirations of progress and development and improve their standard of living under the leadership of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Skeptics cannot deny the visible accomplishments of the revolution. Compared to the situation before the revolution, today we have about 3 million students in schools. We have clinics and hospitals spread everywhere in the country. None of this existed before the revolution. Modern medicine then only existed on a limited scale in two hospitals only. Today we can see all the manifestations of modern life. A person can contact anyone in the world by telephone from his own house. He can travel to various parts of the country on modern means of transportation through thousands of kilometers of roads. Above all, we live under a democratic system. The citizen can express his opinion and belong to any party.

All this was just a dream for the pioneers who launched the revolution. Without the revolution, not many positive things would have happened in Yemeni life. The revolution has changed the Yemeni people's mentality and transported them to a different age.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Columnist Analyzes Clinton's Bosnia Decision

JN0712191395 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Nov 95 pp 1,3

[Article by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "Clinton, With One Foot on the Yugoslav Landmine and the Other in the Russian Pot!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has decided to send U.S. troops to Bosnia "to head" the NATO forces, which will carry out the "Dayton Agreement" signed recently. It is clear from the announcement of his decision that Clinton is making loud threats against anyone who might stand in the way of the U.S. troops! This is despite his full awareness of strong Congressional reservations about dispatching U.S. troops to that "very dangerous" region!

In order to justify his serious decision, Clinton said Yugoslavia is a region of vital interest for the United States. He also spoke about U.S. desire to avoid resumption of massacres and the ethnic cleansing war! Clinton's decision is both serious and strange, since U.S. officials have continued to watch the Yugoslav tragedy unfold like a bewildered child watching an exciting detective movie! For, despite the killing of more than a quarter million persons, the destitution of more than two million others, and the rape of tens of thousands of women, as Clinton himself has said and acknowledged, the "American child" has not made a single move to put an end to that tragedy. He continued to watch the Europeans, especially the French, getting bogged down in that crisis, which is bigger than their size and willpower, and to gloat over their predicament!

The reason which made the Bush and Clinton administrations refrain from direct intervention to put an end to the Yugoslav tragedy was the saying that "the region was not of vital interest to the United States," thus precluding the dispatch of U.S. troops there, and that the Europeans should be left to resolve their own crisis. This logic still prevails in the Congress up to this day. So, the logical question that poses itself is: Why did the United States refrain from intervention in previous years; and why has the Clinton administration changed its position now?

Refraining from intervention for more than four years in that civil war is not only due to the lack of U.S. willingness to face death, but also and above all due to the fact that it is in the U.S. interest to spark wars in the Balkans by fostering hatreds and creating climates of great enmity between the warring parties in Yugoslavia which could be exploited later to spread the state of war in the entire Balkan region. The motives for this U.S. trend are numerous. First, there is a need to stifle the "Yugoslav model" of coexistence among the different ethnic groups and to turn Yugoslavia into a hotbed of hatred and vengeance so that it would be possible to spread wars throughout the Balkan states. Once this had been achieved, the United States would have two opportunities: the opportunity of disrupting and exhausting Russia's "strategic reserve" or "vital zone," and the opportunity of containing and turning it into a strategic reserve for the United States which it could use against Russia when it inevitably returns to playing the role of the other superpower in the coming years.

The past four years have illustrated how the United States has utilized these "two opportunities" in an obvious manner. It bared Yugoslavia to the bone, mutilated it, and sowed the seeds of hatred between the Balkan states so that it has now become possible to spark civil regional wars in them easily. The states of eastern Europe, which have also not been spared the effects of the Yugoslav crisis, are also susceptible to racial or ethnic crises if the socialists, who have returned to power on the stallions of "U.S. democracy," ever attempted to build socialism of another kind or tried to pursue an independent policy and got closer to Russia!

One of the secret and undeclared motives of Clinton's aforementioned decision may have been the panic which has stricken U.S. decisionmakers due to the situation in Russia following President Yeltsin's recent illness. The possibility of Russia's return to playing the superpower role has increased now despite all the wounds and bleeding operations to which that country has been exposed. It is obvious that all U.S. attempts at bribery, sabotage, and corruption have not succeed in undermining Russia's resurgence or splitting the majority. On the contrary, they have led to the emergence of a broad anti-U.S. alliance representing the overwhelming majority of the Russians, from the extreme left to the extreme right. This means a Balkan region and an eastern Europe free of timebombs and their possible return to Russia, which is expected in the next few years, would put an immediate and decisive end to U.S. attempts to monopolize world leadership.

Therefore, Clinton's decision is linked with the quiet, major events which are now taking place in Russia, just as it is also linked with the desire of a weak, unpopular Clinton to win votes and prop up his election campaign by foreign "victories."

The United States had refrained from intervening in Yugoslavia after it had moved the Satans of death and war there to achieve the objectives we have just mentioned. Therefore, it was not in its interests to end the fighting in one or two years. It was essential to foil

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

European attempts and to simply watch and lavish the blood and death scenes. However, now and after four years of a bloody savage war, which awakened dormant hatreds and created new ones across eastern Europe, sowed the seeds of serious future crises, and shattered the traditional bases of coexistence among communities of different cultures and religions, and crushed entire factions, the United States feels that it is to time to stop the cease-fire temporarily and to ride the wave of "rearranging the Balkans" within the context of a U.S. regional move of containing eastern Europe within NATO, and an international move of guaranteeing the non- resurgence of a rival international bloc.

The aforementioned facts explain why Yugoslavia, which was said to be strategically unimportant and not vital for the United States, as some U.S. officials and analysts had claimed, has suddenly become an "important" and "vital" region. They also explain why the Clinton Administration was so overzealous yesterday. The administration wanted quick election support. It also wanted to direct a powerful blow to Europe, especially France, as some U.S. and European papers said two days ago. This means that the United States wanted to say to France and Europe that the attempt to establish a European nuclear umbrella which is independent of the United States is simply a delusion, because Europe lacks the willpower and influence, and the proof is European failure in Yugoslavia.

In view of the above, Clinton's claim about preventing the resumption of war in Yugoslavia is incorrect, because he and the Bush administration allowed the killing of one quarter million Yugoslavs, the destitution of two million others, and the rape of more than 80,000 Bosnian women without making a single move! Why is Clinton moving now even though the situation is fairly quiet there?

Clinton's decision is no more than a well-studied step with several aims and motives; mainly to denigrate U.S. lies and keep them under its umbrella, unilaterally control the Balkan crisis by escalating or de-escalating it, tighten the cordon around Russia and isolate it from "its vital zone," and weaken the republicans in the coming U.S. elections. Above all, the Clinton Administration aims at preparing for new disasters in the whole of Europe and the Asian industrial states by planting timebombs everywhere and blackmailing the world whenever its nations and governments move to guarantee their freedom and independence. The Clinton Administration is doing exactly what Britain did in its former colonies, especially the Indian subcontinent and the Arab homeland, where problems are still exploding tragically due to border demarcations and national minorities.

But, would the United States succeed in its endeavor? The answer is categorically no, because the elements of failure already exist now. The "Dayton Agreement" was forced on the Muslims, Serbs, and Croats by pressure and threat. There is a strong opposition to it. Its current acceptance by the parties concerned is no more than an attempt to absorb the reckless U.S. drive toward the use of force, circumvent it, and then resume the war.

The United States does not differ much with the other parties to the Yugoslav crisis on the "Dayton Agreement" It knows that any agreement which is imposed by force is bound to be canceled later. This is why Washington is trying to create the temporary general impression that the United States and the other parties to the Yugoslav crises are in almost complete agreement that the "Dayton Agreement" is not acceptable voluntarily.

This is where Clinton's dangerous game becomes clear to some members of the Congress. He wants a new show of force to improve the moral of the Americans and to convince them that the United States is capable of finding "magical solutions" to all the problems of the world. But this show of muscle must lead to the spilling of American blood, otherwise it would fail and change public applause to cries of denunciation and throwing of rotten eggs on the leading players. Thus, we see Clinton threatening "the opponents of the agreement" and Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic replying: We will not attack them unless they attack us!

The Congress is very concerned about the possibility of the United States slipping into the Yugoslav quagmire. Yugoslavia, with its rough terrain, warrior people, and ethnic link with Russia, is a dangerous jungle. If the "Somali jungle" forced the United States to flee after the death of only 18 American soldiers, the "Yugoslav Jungle," which is even more dangerous and capable of swallowing up thousands of American soldiers, is a nightmare which frightens Clinton and will make him sleep uncomfortably from now until the withdrawal of the last American soldier.

Focus your attention on Yugoslavia, but do not forget that the Russian pot is boiling while its lid is closed tightly.

Paper: Clinton, Bush 'Human Rights Abusers'

JN1212105195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0930 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA) — The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH urges the international community to support Iraq by ending the criminal embargo clamped on it for the past five years. Such

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

a move by this community will be in compliance with the dictates of universal human rights conventions.

In an article today entitled "Human Rights and the Criminal Genocide of the People of Iraq," the paper adds: International law has not overlooked human rights and the rights of peoples and nations. It has provisions demanding protection of these rights and sanctioning the punishment of criminal human rights abusers like Clinton and his predecessor Bush, who committed the most blatant crimes against Iraq, beginning with the aggression and ending with the imposition of the criminal embargo.

The paper goes on to say: Former U.S. President Bush and his administration and Clinton and his administration must be held responsible for their perpetration of a criminal genocide of a whole people under flimsy pretexts and excuses that cannot hold water. The very parties that have opposed, attacked, and beleaguered Iraq continue to use the filthiest weapons against it after their 30-state military aggression failed, after they were defeated, and after their ambitions regarding Iraqi territory were foiled.

The paper stresses that a real solution to the Iraqis' plight lies in the adoption of a responsible stand opposed to the despicable U.S. policies by the international community. Additionally, this community must exercise its right and bear the responsibility of granting the Iraqi individual the right to life so that he or she may play his or her role and make his or her contributions toward the betterment of human life.

Tariq 'Aziz Arrives in New York To Visit UN

JN1212115795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 12 Dec (INA) — Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived here from Geneva yesterday on a visit to the United Nations lasting several days.

During the visit, the deputy prime minister will hold talks with the president and members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] on the relationship between Iraq and the UNSC.

Tariq 'Aziz met with Dr. Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary general, in Geneva.

The UNSC is scheduled to hold consultations on 20 December on the semiannual report it will receive from Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, UN special commission chairman.

Airspace 'Violations' Protested to Arab League

JN1112200795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1837 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (INA) — Iraq has protested to the Arab League the continued violation of its airspace by U.S., British, and French aircraft, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. It said that this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said that these aircraft continued their violation of Iraq's airspace during the period 20-30 November 1995, carrying out 642 hostile air sorties, and taking off from these bases.

Iraq's representative requested that this letter, which included a detailed list of these sorties, be distributed to all member Arab states to acquaint them with these regrettable facts.

Relations With Egypt Seen as Improving

JN1112161795 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 13 Dec 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Well-informed diplomatic sources have said that there is ongoing security cooperation between the Iraqi and Egyptian Embassies in Amman.

Cooperation between the two embassies includes the exchange of information on the opposition's activities. This falls within the framework of an agreement signed between the two sides to swap criminals.

Information obtained by AL-HADATH says Baghdad turned over a number of Islamists to the Egyptian Government via Jordan. This Iraqi initiative comes at a time when Egypt adopted a tense stance regarding General Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan. Egyptian officials raised the slogan of not interfering in Iraq's internal affairs — a slogan which observers interpreted as being aimed specifically at Jordan.

Relations between Baghdad and Cairo have witnessed positive developments for more than two months.

Diplomatic sources expect the improvement in relations between Cairo and Baghdad to take on an official dimension within the next few months.

Official Contacts With Riyadh Said Continuing

MM1212115695 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 9-10 Dec 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Arab sources have stressed that Iraqi-Saudi

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

a move by this community will be in compliance with the dictates of universal human rights conventions.

In an article today entitled "Human Rights and the Criminal Genocide of the People of Iraq," the paper adds: International law has not overlooked human rights and the rights of peoples and nations. It has provisions demanding protection of these rights and sanctioning the punishment of criminal human rights abusers like Clinton and his predecessor Bush, who committed the most blatant crimes against Iraq, beginning with the aggression and ending with the imposition of the criminal embargo.

The paper goes on to say: Former U.S. President Bush and his administration and Clinton and his administration must be held responsible for their perpetration of a criminal genocide of a whole people under flimsy pretexts and excuses that cannot hold water. The very parties that have opposed, attacked, and beleaguered Iraq continue to use the filthiest weapons against it after their 30-state military aggression failed, after they were defeated, and after their ambitions regarding Iraqi territory were foiled.

The paper stresses that a real solution to the Iraqis' plight lies in the adoption of a responsible stand opposed to the despicable U.S. policies by the international community. Additionally, this community must exercise its right and bear the responsibility of granting the Iraqi individual the right to life so that he or she may play his or her role and make his or her contributions toward the betterment of human life.

Tariq 'Aziz Arrives in New York To Visit UN

JN1212115795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1115 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 12 Dec (INA) — Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived here from Geneva yesterday on a visit to the United Nations lasting several days.

During the visit, the deputy prime minister will hold talks with the president and members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] on the relationship between Iraq and the UNSC.

Tariq 'Aziz met with Dr. Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary general, in Geneva.

The UNSC is scheduled to hold consultations on 20 December on the semiannual report it will receive from Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, UN special commission chairman.

Airspace 'Violations' Protested to Arab League

JN1112200795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1837 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (INA) — Iraq has protested to the Arab League the continued violation of its airspace by U.S., British, and French aircraft, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. It said that this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said that these aircraft continued their violation of Iraq's airspace during the period 20-30 November 1995, carrying out 642 hostile air sorties, and taking off from these bases.

Iraq's representative requested that this letter, which included a detailed list of these sorties, be distributed to all member Arab states to acquaint them with these regrettable facts.

Relations With Egypt Seen as Improving

JN1112161795 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic
13 Dec 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Well-informed diplomatic sources have said that there is ongoing security cooperation between the Iraqi and Egyptian Embassies in Amman.

Cooperation between the two embassies includes the exchange of information on the opposition's activities. This falls within the framework of an agreement signed between the two sides to swap criminals.

Information obtained by AL-HADATH says Baghdad turned over a number of Islamists to the Egyptian Government via Jordan. This Iraqi initiative comes at a time when Egypt adopted a tense stance regarding General Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan. Egyptian officials raised the slogan of not interfering in Iraq's internal affairs — a slogan which observers interpreted as being aimed specifically at Jordan.

Relations between Baghdad and Cairo have witnessed positive developments for more than two months.

Diplomatic sources expect the improvement in relations between Cairo and Baghdad to take on an official dimension within the next few months.

Official Contacts With Riyadh Said Continuing

MM1212115695 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 9-10 Dec 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Arab sources have stressed that Iraqi-Saudi

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

contacts began some time ago and are still continuing through various means, and that Iraq started them and is working to ensure their continuation.

Iraqi officials meeting with Saudi officials are trying to convince Saudi Arabia of the need to change its position toward Iraq, stressing that Iraq does not pose a threat to it or to Kuwait, that it is incapable of threatening them even if it wants to, and that it is not in Saudi Arabia's interests to weaken or fragment it.

In their dialogue with Saudi officials, Iraqi officials say that Saudi Arabia is the one which will be harmed because the United States is trying to exhaust its oil by frightening it with the Iraqi threat, and that its oil will dry up one day, while Iraq's oil, which cannot be exported, is still in the wells.

Iraqi officials have said that they have conveyed their view to Kuwait too, even though they feel that the Saudis listen more to them and are convinced of what they are saying.

Meanwhile, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that the Egyptian Government, which is to reopen the Egyptian trade center in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, has told the Iraqi Government that it will not allow, in return, the reopening of the Iraqi trade center in Cairo, situated in al-Jumhuriyah Street in the same building housing the offices of the newspaper AL-AHRAR and the Cotton Authority. The Iraqi Government has accepted the Egyptian condition.

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has also learned that the Egyptian Government will allow in various ways and indirectly the delivery of food and medicine aid to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Government Forces Attack Southern Village

NC0812161495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An armored battalion belonging to Baghdad's bloody regime, supported by additional infantry units and security and Ba'th party mercenaries, besieged, bombarded, and then stormed al-Nasr village in al-Nasiriyah [Dhi Qar] Governorate a few days ago.

Iraqi sources said today that during this terrorist attack the government forces perpetrated hideous crimes including shooting three citizens dead, arresting 14 others, committing acts of sabotage, and confiscating the citizens' money and other possessions.

The sources reported that this military action was taken by the regime in revenge for the citizens' earlier closure of a highway that lies 2 km from their village to protest against their starvation and the regime's discriminatory policies against southern citizens, including depriving them of food and medicine.

President Confers With Saddam Fedayeen Commanders

JN1112165295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has said that Iraq's enemies will be mistaken if they think Iraq would leave the road to the pinnacle after it has reached it.

During a meeting with the fighters, commander of the camp of and commanders of the Saddam Fedayeen units, President Saddam Husayn added: The evildoers are mistaken when they view the Iraqis based on the state of long dormancy which lasted 1,000 years, however, we view the Iraqis based on the bright image following the awakening, which has come to compensate for the long state of dormancy.

The president wondered: How do the enemies imagine that Iraq, after making all these preparations, awakening after 1,000 years, and finding its way to loftiness, would relinquish all this as a result of material pressure applied by the evildoers?

President Saddam Husayn stressed that Almighty God will open all doors so that the sun will rise again with the Iraqis' will.

Addressing the fighters of the Saddam Fedayeen, the president said: Your role is great, and you will be greatly rewarded by God and history. This is in addition to the fact that your people are proud of you.

His excellency said: We always see the Iraqis as being great, and in order not to be the only ones who view Iraqis in this way, and so that others will not continue to be misled, the referendum has come to allow others to see Iraqis as they really are after Iraq has offered great sacrifices.

During the meeting the president was briefed by the fighters on the nature of the work and tasks of the Saddam Fedayeen units, and the obstacles these units must surmount.

Deformed Births Said Caused by Chemical Weapons

NC0812162495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Iraqi sources, there have been cases of babies born in al-Basrah with deformities similar to those seen in Japan after the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki 50 years ago.

The regime's Health Ministry admitted that such strange births have occurred but alleged that they were caused by the embargo and the lack of food and medicine.

Iraqi opposition sources, however, cite experts and physicians as saying that these births were caused by the regime's use of poison gases and other internationally banned weapons against the citizens in the south. The experts said that such deformities are only caused by the use of harmful, especially poisonous, substances such as the ones actually used by the regime in the south.

Husayn Kamil's Contacts, Plan for Change Viewed

JN1112135095 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 13 Dec 95 p 7

[Report by Jihad al-Rantisi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It appears that Iraqi developments will see further escalation within the next few weeks, and that the winds of dramatic events will blow from the Arab, regional, and Western capitals in which opposition leaders are based. During the past few days, there have been persistent efforts by opposition groups to catch up with developments on the Iraqi question; these developments are heading for a countdown. General Husayn Kamil and several former Iraqi diplomats were busy drafting the Higher Iraqi Salvation Council's program for change, a copy of which was obtained by AL- DADATH. The program is yet to be debated with other opposition forces.

The program opposes federation and the division of Iraq into cantons. Similarly, it is opposed to change from outside, and reiterates that President Saddam Husayn and his ruling junta must be expelled from Iraq.

The program is also opposed to liquidations, executions, and trials of officials of the current regime if the change takes place. The Council is confident that such change will take place.

The program states that the other opposition groups that are incapable of contributing to such change can remain idle if this is their choice. The program criticizes the parochial, sectarian, and ethnic opposition forces.

The program stipulates that Iraq is a free country, and that Iraqi citizens are entitled to democracy, pluralism, and elections.

Regarding the Kurdish issue, the program says that it is an Iraqi issue, and that Kurds are Iraqis who must enjoy all their national rights.

The program stipulates that it supports a strategic relationship with the United States, and dwells on the mutual interests entailed. The program adds that its formulators are ready to engage in a dialogue with Washington in its capacity as the leader of the new world order.

Regarding Syrian support for the Iraqi opposition, the program underlines the moral importance of Syria's support for the success of the desired change. It also stresses that the Syrians support the change desired by the Higher Council.

The program, which is still in the printing press, asserts that Jordan is Iraq's strategic depth and that the forces working for change will not forget the noble stands of his majesty the king.

The program asserts the need to build the Iraqi Army so that it may safeguard democracy and the military secrets unrelated to weapons of mass destruction, given the fact that such secrets are sacred.

In its program, the Higher Salvation Council denies that it will seek the permission of anybody before embarking on any acts aimed at effecting the desired change. The Council adds that it will carry out its plan in this regard in accordance with the dates it has set. The program grants all Iraqis —be they Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds, or Assyrians — the right to rule Iraq. True patriotism lies in having faith in the Iraqi people's rights to freedom and democracy, the program declares.

The Higher Salvation Council is opposed to wars, aggression, and the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction. It supports justice, equality among peoples, and economic alliances in the Middle East.

The program indicates that Iraqis cannot act on behalf of the Palestinians. Consequently, they cannot uphold the slogan of liberation. The post-Saddam regime will respect the choice of the Palestinians and cordon states with regard to peace with Israel.

AL-HADATH's sources said that rendering this program for change a success was the focus of Arab and Middle East tours made by opposition leaders. Salah 'Umar al-'Ali, former member of the Revolution Command Council, former member of the then Regional Command of the Ba'th Party, the first Iraqi information minister in the aftermath of the 17 July revolution, and former Iraq ambassador to the world body, toured Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. He met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, other Syrian officials, and several opposition Iraqi Ba'thists based in Syria. He also met with Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i as well as representatives of Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim and Talabani.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Sources close to 'Umar al-'Ali told AL-HADATH that his talks with the Arab sides were encouraging, and that he made a tangible progress in his talks with the Syrians, with whom he managed to approximate views. Likewise, the views he explained to the Saudis and Egyptians were met with understanding and enthusiasm.

Mish'an al-Juburi, leader of the al-Jubur tribe which totals 2 million people, made a similar tour that took him to Turkey and Iran. People close to Gen. Husayn Kamil explained that he is satisfied with the changed stands of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Turkey in the aftermath of the tours made by al-Juburi and al-'Ali. [passage omitted]

Figures close to Husayn Kamil believe that the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the Islamic Action Organization, and the Communists are not serious in joining Husayn Kamil's plan. [passage omitted]

For his part, His Majesty King Husayn heard the views of opposition groups regarding change in Iraq during his stay in London. He asked them to express their views on the Jordanian initiative after he told them that Amman is firm regarding the need to oust President Saddam Husayn and effect a drastic change in the structure of the Iraqi regime. [passage omitted]

More on Contacts

JN1112152395 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 13 Dec 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] General Husayn Kamil has revealed that his contacts with army officers and commanders make up a major part of his efforts to effect a change in the situation in Iraq.

Gen. Kamil was cited as saying that changing the situation in Iraq requires a substantial mobilization, a blanket of secrecy, and an accurate and scientific approach.

Sources close to the general said he believes that if the situation in Iraq continues as it is now, the door will be open to more foreign interference.

AL-HADATH sources said that during his meeting with the opposition forces, Husayn Kamil praised His Majesty King Husayn and described him as the grandson of ancestors to whom history respectfully bows.

Opposition Views on Conference, Federation

JN1112132795 Amman AL-URDUN in Arabic 11 Dec 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] It has now become clear that the overwhelming majority of the Iraqi opposition leaders are former members of the Ba'th Party. They enjoyed financial privileges in the sixties and seventies by virtue of the important positions they held as Ba'th Party leaders and supervisors of the general economic public sector.

Many of them, however, lost their financial privileges in the eighties when they were replaced by others like President Saddam Husayn's relatives, people from the Tikrit area, and partners of Saddam's son 'Udayy. One of the prominent opposition leaders at present was once an Iraqi Airways cargo agent, who made a profit of 5 million pounds sterling. He, however, turned against the regime and joined the opposition when his agency was taken away from him and given to someone else.

A person working with Muhammad Salih Bahr al-'Ulum [a prominent Iraqi opposition member] contacted AL-URDUN and announced his organization's support for the "Jordanian initiative," which he said can end the Iraqi people's plight and produce positive results, especially since it is based on:

— Granting the Iraqi people their right to democracy, pluralism, and respect for human rights.
— Achieving national reconciliation among the Sunnis, Shia, and Kurds through a new Constitution.
— Refusing to divide Iraq and working for preserving its territorial integrity and regional sovereignty.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq issued several statements demanding that an understanding, rather than a reconciliation, be reached among the Iraqi people.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, led by Jalal Talabani, expressed its support for His Majesty King Husayn's proposals and issued a statement welcoming the Jordanian initiative, saying that it accurately diagnoses the Iraqi people's problems, guarantees an end to their suffering, and fosters Iraq's territorial integrity and political sovereignty.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party, led by Mas'ud Barzani, issued a similar statement welcoming the Jordanian initiative and said it will secure an honorable life for all factions of the Iraqi people.

Despite the negative attitude of the Kuwaiti circles, represented by al-Sharif 'Ali Bin-al-Husayn, who is leading the Iraqi Constitutional Monarchy Movement, and despite reservations by the Free Iraqi Council, led by Salih Jabr, the majority of the influential political powers in the Iraqi opposition considered His Majesty King Husayn's propositions a means to "rescue the Iraqi people and foster their national and territorial integrity."

Several prominent Iraqi figures expressed gratitude to King Husayn for his efforts to alleviate the Iraqi

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

people's tragedy through a permanent Constitution that ensures equality and justice for all the people of Iraq. Among these figures are Dr. 'Abd-al-Hasan Zalzalah, Adib al-Jadir, Ahmad al-Habbubi, 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Duri, and Dr. Ghassan al-'Atiyah. They, along with the Union of Iraqi Democrats, issued statements calling for immediate action to rescue the Iraqi people from their suffering and tragedy.

AL-URDUN has learned from sources close to the Iraqi opposition that the main influential opposition groups will not attend the upcoming conference in Jordan, for which some have called, if the federation option continues to be proposed as a solution to the Iraqi question. Sources close to Jordan, which have previously acted as a contact link between Iraqi opposition forces in Damascus, Riyadh, Cairo, London, and Washington, said that no true opposition member would accept the federation proposition and that the parties which persuaded Jordan to adopt it are not really that influential in the Iraqi opposition arena.

An opposition source told AL-URDUN that the federation option was first proposed by the Kho'i Institution, which is currently close to Jordan. The source said that Kho'i was a religious authority for the Shia. He was a Persian and had nothing to do with Iraq. Majid Kho'i, his son, who is currently in charge, carries Iranian travel documents. He and all those around him speak Arabic the Persian way. His propositions enjoy only sectarian support and are not shared by the opposition forces.

The source said that the idea of federation is also supported by Dr. Nabil al-Janabi, who almost reflects Jordan's views and opposes the conference [as published]. The source said that al-Janabi is enthusiastically supported by Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti. He does not have any political weight at all, and has nothing to lose. Although he claims to lead the National Democratic Party (a party from the monarchy era in Iraq), he was imprisoned in London for several years on charges of embezzlement and was released two years ago. He had left his family in Baghdad, which he has not seen for 20 years. He was also detained in Syria on charges of serving for the Iraqi intelligence services. After spending several years in prison, he was deported, and then settled in London. Every member of the Iraqi opposition knows that about him. The source says he cannot see why Jordan should accept to deal with al-Janabi. The source wonders: Who advised Jordan to deal with him?

According to the source, federation is also supported by Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi, who is well known to Jordanians through the Petra Bank tragedy.

On the al-Sharif 'Ali question, the source said clearly and confidently: His father, al-Sharif Husayn, who moved from Mecca to Cairo, has no relationship with the grandchildren of al-Sharif Husayn of Mecca. The only relationship his father has with the Hashemite family is that he is married to Princess Badi'ah, sister of regent 'Abd-al-'Ila. Al-Sharif 'Ali is a young man who does not know why he is doing what is doing. He used to work at the Kuwait National Bank in London. When the Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait, he established his organization through massive Kuwaiti support with the aim of upsetting Jordan. When you sit with him, you discover that his father, who speaks in the Egyptian dialect, is the decisionmaker, and that he intentionally abuses the Hashemites. As for the young man's wife, her father's name is 'Ali Khan and he belongs to the Isma'ili sect, therefore, he cannot be considered a party to the Iraqi opposition. The source, who is close to most opposition sources, stressed that none of the opposition forces can accept that their country be divided under any name no matter who is in power. This is because they consider that a defiance of their sentiments. For them, it is easier to accept that Saddam Husayn remains in power rather than to accept a federation according to the new concept. He said: It seems that Jordan understood this position lately, and is, therefore, no longer a strong supporter of the federation idea.

Regarding Husayn Kamil, the source said that Kamil is holding contacts with the Iraqi opposition through mediators, and that he will have a role in it. However, the source said, Kamil has not traveled out of Amman since his defection from Iraq.

Al-Sahhaf on Ties With Kuwait, Qatar

96LH0015A Doha AL-SHARQ in Arabic 27 Sep 95 p 8

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf by AL-SHARQ Cairo Bureau Chief Yusuf al-Sharif; place and date not given: "Iraq Has Recognized Kuwait's Borders and Independence, and We Want To Turn a New Leaf in Our Relations With It" — first three paragraphs are AL-SHARQ introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] "It has to be seen to be believed." This was the way Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf started out to describe the deplorable living conditions in his country. He said the Iraqi people's staying power and patience made them rally around their leader, and their faith that the plans to besiege and starve them, led by America, are no longer aimed merely at implementing the UN sanctions because we have complied with all the Security Council resolutions, one after the other. "What they seek is

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

to violate the sovereignty and honor of Iraq and to sap their morale so they will not rise again to mend the destruction of the war and repair its Arab and international relations."

Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's envoy to the Arab League, extended an invitation to the elite of society — thinkers, statesmen, ambassadors, writers, researchers, and former cabinet ministers — to engage in a dialogue with the Iraqi Foreign Minister on the occasion of his attending the meetings of the Arab League session. There would be a frank, forthright discussion of Iraq's decision to invade Kuwait, its grave repercussions, the horizons of the present, and of future considerations, but because "the sessions are secure," the interview by AL-SHARQ with the Iraqi foreign minister imposed its necessities in the context of its powers and the limits of the possible — and the printable. It is well known al-Sahhaf, who has been serving in his current post for four years, is seen as one of Iraq's most moderate and refined public figures, with a wide network of connections with most of the Arab journalists and intellectuals, from the time he was Director of Radio and Television and the Director of Foreign Relations. He is a well-known artist in the fields of painting and photography, in addition to his university studies in Western literature in Paris and London. Hence it was he who had the honor of organizing the first Arab Film Festival in Baghdad in 1972.

He said the plan of the U.S. Pentagon for the total destruction of Iraq (the "scorched earth" policy) — whose "1,200 daily sorties and 107,000 tons of explosive missiles and smart bombs" — was not to paralyze Iraq's forces or force them out of Kuwait, because the total destruction was not confined to military targets. It went beyond this to destroy the infrastructure entirely. The demolition recurred several times on civilian installations, until they were reduced to rubble and scrap metal. Ninety-six percent of the electrical power generating stations were totally destroyed, including the towers and high tension wires. To varying degrees, schools, roads, bridges, schools [as published], and water stations were destroyed. The war, then, was merely a pretext for carrying out America's intentions and schemes, and there are the recently-published memoirs of Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his frank admission that the destruction of Iraq with an atomic bomb, along the lines of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, did enter the thinking of the administration, the Pentagon, and U.S. intelligence.

[Al-Sharif] How do you explain U.S. intentions, plans, and schemes against Iraq?

[Al-Sahhaf] America's strategic thinking about the Middle East was a secret to no one. Most of its objectives were realized, with control over the global reserves of Arab oil and hegemony over the region's resources and the exhaustion of them, right to the bone marrow.

[Al-Sharif] Referring to Iraq specifically?

[Al-Sahhaf] Israel's destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor was a a sign and a beginning. The United States restrained itself for eight years during the war against Iran. Its persistent concern was the search for an opening, for a pretext, to destroy our military, economic, and developmental capabilities so that the balance of power in the region would remain in favor of Israeli supremacy and the imposition of a pax Hebraica.

Relations With Iran

[Al-Sharif] Don't you think that by launching its war against Iran, and occupying Kuwait, Iraq created a suitable atmosphere for the implementation of U.S. hegemony over the region's resources, and the aborting of Iraq's developing military and economic power, and its total destruction?

[Al-Sahhaf] You know Iraq had settled its border disputes with Iran in 1975 via a historic agreement between the two countries, during the Shah's era.

[Al-Sharif] And now there are signs of joint dialogue with Iran appearing on the horizon, aimed at getting beyond the past and correcting errors. What has happened so far?

[Al-Sahhaf] We feel wronged by the Iranians. We sheltered Khomeyni among us for 14 years. We strengthened him and supported him so there could be change in Iran, with an end to the rule of the Shah, who turned his country into a fortress of U.S. intelligence and U.S. influence, to the detriment of the region, but they did not return the favor. Now the atmosphere is conducive to dialogue between Baghdad and Tehran, and it has recently begun. We told them, "We are not leaving this region; nor is the people of Iran. We must understand one another and coexist." We signed an agreement dealing with the settlement of the POW and refugee problems, the transfer of the remains of war victims here and there. After that we hope for a political dialogue, normalization of relations, and the signing of a peace agreement opening the way to cooperation between the two countries.

...And With Kuwait

[Al-Sharif] And Iraq's occupation of Kuwait?

[Al-Sahhaf] I refer you to the statements of many Arab presidents, which affirm that before the crisis exploded,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kuwait crossed the line of its borders and territories to take more than its fair share of oil, and its demand that we settle our debts in spite of our poor economic conditions due to the war with Iran. All this is history now, and we do not want to get into a discussion of it because it does not help move beyond the backdrop and repercussions of the crisis. President Saddam has settled this subject and issued a directive that any documents and facts that do not serve solidarity and Arab unity — especially our relationship with Kuwait — should not be made public. In short, the subject of Kuwait was not the direct cause of the Iraqi-U.S. war. No.

[Al-Sharif] Since 1990, and down to the present, the Iraqi leadership has issued no statement of self-criticism, or reviewing errors. How can we reassure the peoples of Iran and Kuwait that such errors will not reoccur in the future?

[Al-Sahhaf] As I have said, we do not to pick at this wound, or reopen the issue. In practical terms, Iraq has acknowledged Kuwait's borders and its independence as a state. We have complied with all the UN resolutions. The relations between the peoples are more permanent and more important than the disputes. The treatment of wounds requires a political, cultural, and media dialogue to transcend the pains of the past and to catch sight of a peaceful future.

[Al-Sharif] The question of the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraqi custody still remains unsolved.

[Al-Sahhaf] I swear to you, what would it benefit us politically for Iraq to hold Kuwaiti prisoners. We have turned over to the Red Cross even members of Kuwait's ruling family, and a number of officials of the Kuwaiti regime. In Iraq, there are dozens of Kuwaitis who, both before and after the Kuwait crisis, were content to live among us. Everyone knows who they are. Of course, given the war conditions, both sides suffered casualties whose names it is hard to know to record them on lists of those missing. We have repeatedly declared our readiness to welcome an international or Arab investigative delegations — along the lines of the international committee investigating the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq — because we are concerned with starting a new chapter in our relations with Kuwait.

The Internal Situation

[Al-Sharif] On the domestic front, do the people of Iraq, who are enduring the miseries of the international sanctions, know what really happened in the Gulf crisis? How convinced are they of the credibility of the position of their political leadership?

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes. At various political and popular levels, there is a total awareness of the circumstances, causes, and justifications behind the Gulf crisis — and the timing of its eruption. They are convinced it is necessary to move on now, enthusiastic about calls for steadfastness, and to mobilize our people to build and rebuild what was destroyed in the war with the Americans. I can confirm that our people have rediscovered themselves. President Saddam Husayn has led this awakening by holding a series of meetings and conferences which included various levels of the leadership, scientists, experts, and engineers. It was a decision to make a challenge, to rebuild and rise again.

[Al-Sharif] How was the rebuilding started up in the face of the international embargo imposed on Iraq?

[Al-Sahhaf] There were just two options, not three: either daring to rebuild, or collapse and suicide. It is amazing, for example, the success of thinking and Iraqi management in the rebuilding of the iron suspension bridge in Baghdad, in the same style as before it was destroyed. We did not only rebuild the infrastructure. With our own Iraqi efforts, we upgraded a petrochemical complex and expanded it to three times its original capacity, plus refineries, electrical power generating stations, factories, schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, and so on. Iraq now has tremendous expertise in building electric generating stations locally.

[Al-Sharif] There is talk of a U.S. agricultural project now being implemented in Iraq. How true is it?

[Al-Sahhaf] What has been published on this topic suggests it is a new one, but it is old; it goes back to the monarchical era in Iraq, and its implementation is followed by Brazilian, German, and British consulting firms until 1970. After the Gulf crisis, we reviewed the project and rushed to implement it with Iraqi expertise and resources, to provide some of our food needs by desalinating the agricultural soil. We actually got rid of 82 million tons of salinity by draining the land of Gulf water. Then the project extended to drying out the shallows in the marsh region. We now have gained about 4 million new dunums of arable land.

[Al-Sharif] So what are the remaining negative repercussions of the UN sanctions resolution in terms of living standards in Iraq?

[Al-Sahhaf] Everything that has been grown on this reclaimed land has contributed in a small to provide our food needs, which will preserve the last breath of life and our ability to remain steadfast. You must know how many thousands of children have died because of the shortage of milk, and how many others are dying daily from diseases because of the lack of medicine; how hospitals are echoing with the cries of the ill undergoing surgery without anesthesia. The United States was not

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

content with Resolution 661, which froze our bank accounts — $4 billion — abroad; it went and had the Security Council enact Resolution 778, which grants the United Nations alone the right to buy the food and medicine we need. When we demanded our rights, and our needs to save our people from catastrophe, they said: "We're the ones who decide on the program and the volume of your food and medical needs." We wonder how this obstinacy serves the objectives of the United Nations!

The Referendum

[Al-Sharif] The democratic openness which the political leadership promised was limited to the mere holding of a popular referendum on the presidency, and the invitation of 600 journalists and others as observers.

[Al-Sahhaf] We did not invite anyone as observers, as has been claimed, but to become acquainted with the social and living conditions in Iraq, and with the way the people are rallying around their leaders. Total democratic openness would have been forthcoming had it not been for the war with Iran and the Gulf crisis. The political and Ba'th Party system are the backbone and are assisted by the other parties in the National Front and united nationalist movements, among them the Movement of Nationalists and Independents, the Democratic Movement, and the Kurds. We have the National Assembly — the parliament — which is directly elected, and which embraces all visions and political inclinations. Total democratic openness and political pluralism and the rotation of leadership is a strategic objective and unswerving principle, but it will never be, in any case, a tradition or scenario based on the experiences of other peoples. We are waiting for the embargo to be lifted so we may review and revise the constitution, put it to a popular referendum, and make the move from revolutionary legitimacy to constitutional legitimacy.

The Kurdish Issue

[Al-Sharif] There are reports lacking Iraqi confirmation, regarding American intentions to impose a Turkish mandate on northern Iraq and a federal system linking the Kurds of Iraq and Turkey.

[Al-Sahhaf] Only the Kurds of Iraq, unlike those of any other country, enjoyed all the national rights of minorities, and autonomy in the framework of the unity of Iraq, but at the last moment the Americans forbade them from signing an agreement to this effect with Baghdad. That is according to the Kurdish leader Jalal al-Talibani after his Washington meeting with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Edward Djerejian; it was allegedly because the agreement strengthened the position of Saddam Husayn. The features and boundaries of northern Iraq are clear, and there are 2 million Kurds there. It cannot be pried away or cut off. It is a different story with southern Turkey, where there are between 12 and 16 million Kurds. The Americans have become ensnared and got Turkey entangled with them. Kurdish leader Mas'ud al-Barzani has declared that the American plan is an illusion and a delusion.

[Al-Sharif] Do you see the establishment of an independent Kurdish state in the short or long term?

[Al-Sahhaf] Impossible. All that is needed is respect for their national rights, given that they are a minority in Armenia, Turkey, Syria, and Iraq — but in the framework of their mother country.

'Udayy's Behavior

[Al-Sharif] Frankly, what are the facts about the influence and dominance of 'Udayy, the eldest son of President Saddam, on the government, and his absolute powers?

[Al-Sahhaf] Those who spread this rumors are dreaming, or want to bring down the government in Iraq. We have a party, and a leader, and institutions. All you speak of is a distortion of the image of Iraq so the embargo and the starvation can continue for the longest possible period, in the hope that the domestic situation collapses.

[Al-Sharif] How close were the relations between Industry Minister General Husayn Kamil, the son-in-law of President Saddam, and the Americans?

[Al-Sahhaf] The timing of his escape coincided with the Security Council meeting to study lifting the sanctions on Iraq, or at least easing them, but as it happened, with as soon as he arrived in Jordan, he began criticizing the government in Iraq and making false accusations about the keeping of military secrets away from the international inspection committee. He declared his readiness to cooperate with the Devil himself to bring down the regime in Iraq. We provided Interpol with documents condemning him for stealing more than $8.8 billion, preparatory to turning him over to the courts. It so happened that his importance to the enemies of Iraq has dwindled very quickly; he has been cast on to the trash heap of history. That is always the fate of agents and traitors!

Relations With Jordan

[Al-Sharif] How do you explain Jordan's initiative, as soon as Husayn Kamil fled to its territory, and the announcement of its readiness to take part in changing

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the situation in Iraq? And why did it then pull back suddenly from this initiative?

[Al-Sahhaf] No comment. Iraq seeks the improvement of relations and mutual interests with out Jordanian brothers, for whose support we were grateful during the Gulf crisis, as well as for its easing the suffering during the international embargo on Iraq.

...And With Syria

[Al-Sharif] There are confirmed reports about now open diplomatic channels for dialogue between Baghdad and Damascus, and the Syrian leadership's keenness that power in Iraq remain in the hands of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

[Al-Sahhaf] We are grateful for the position of President Hafiz al-Asad and that of President Mubarak at the Alexandria summit regarding their support for the unity of Iraq and rejection of interference in our internal affairs. I praised President al-Assad's stand, and we welcomed it at the time. We hope the normalization of our relations with our brothers the Syrians will happen soon.

Qatar's Position is Rational and Realistic

[Al-Sharif] How does Iraq view Qatar's position on the Gulf crisis and its terrible repercussions?

[Al-Sahhaf] Qatar's position has always been rational and realistic. We have been bound to His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani, the country's amir, by friendship and profound national dialogue from the time he was Crown Prince, in charge of formulating his country's policies. The people and government of Iraq appreciate his highness's faith in the need to move beyond the sufferings of the past and to restore Arab solidarity to its former credibility. On that basis, that state of Qatar has taken the initiative to normalize its relations with Iraq, and declared its steadfast position in support of the unity of Iraq and of non-interference in its domestic affairs. They took the same honorable position on the unity of Yemen when it was faced with the violence and savagery of the secessionist plot.

Dialogue With Egypt

[Al-Sharif] And Egypt...what are the obstacles or difficulties which stand in the way of normalization of relations between the two countries?

[Al-Sahhaf] There are neither obstacles or nor difficulties on the Iraqi side. In my meetings and my discussions with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa we have touched on all aspects of our relations and mutual interests, as well as the Arab situation in all its aspects, with great frankness and clarity. I believe the days to come will be filled with even more dialogue with regard to promoting Arab solidarity and mending rifts in the relations between the two countries.

[Al-Sharif] How is the progress of the issue of Egyptians' entitlement claims on Iraq?

[Al-Sahhaf] Egypt has presented this problem to the UN Committee on Reparations. In spite of the fact that the problem has not been solved in the way Egypt would like, as this Committee is not the appropriate venue for this issue, we, for our part, will hold joint talks to settle the entitlement claims of our Egyptian brothers — about $479 million — as soon as the embargo on Iraq is lifted. Especially because at present our foreign bank accounts are frozen.

[Al-Sharif] The Israeli media have been rife with talk of dialogue, of channels of contact between Iraq and Israel, alleging bargaining over a deal to lift the embargo in exchange for Baghdad's participation in the peace settlements. What do you say?

[Al-Sahhaf] Idle talk and confused dreams. Iraq is committed only to the resolutions of the Arab summits!

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Peres Comments at White House News Conference

TA1112202095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1814 GMT 11 Dec 95

[News conference by President Clinton and Prime Minister Shim'on Peres at the White House in Washington — live, in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Peres] Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, Mr. Secretary of State, ladies and gentlemen: Let me say from my heart that we were so moved by the American participation in our great sadness when Prime Minister Rabin was assassinated. Mr. President, you have led a most unusual delegation that moved our heart: the President himself, two former presidents, the secretary of state, two former secretaries, the leaders of the Senate, of the House of Representatives, an important corps of journalists, of leaders.

There was greatness in the sadness as Prime Minister Rabin was assassinated because he was right, not because he was wrong. And let me say at this moment that President Clinton did something most unusual — he has added an expression to the Israeli dictionary: Shalom haver. It is a very unusual combination and for the ones who don't understand Hebrew, let me say: The Russians are saying a comrade, which I do not know exactly what it is. The Americans are saying a friend, which I understand what it is. But the Israelis are saying haver, which means togetherness. And since the President has used this word we feel more together, we feel that we have an enriched dictionary among ourselves and between the United States of America and us. Believe me, we speak on behalf of all the Israelis for this enrichment of expression and feelings. Thank you very much.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President....

[Peres, interrupting] Don't discriminate the Israeli part. So I shall really start by saying: Shalom haver [goodbye, friend]. These your farewell words to Prime Minister Rabin echoed throughout the land. The people of Israel will never forget your moving demonstration of solidarity at the moment of grief, of shock, of disbelief, and determination for us. You are a leader; you are a friend. I stand beside you, Mr. President, in the footsteps of my partner, a great captain of peace, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Together with you — and I know how much he trusted you — we scaled the trail from the depths of hostility to the highlands of promising peace. Indeed, together we shall stay the course, and with firm resolve, reach a destiny of lasting and secure peace. A peace for the whole of the Middle East, Arabs and Jews, Jews and Arabs. This was Yitzhaq Rabin's quest; it is my commitment.

Your leadership and devotion to the cause of peace are manifestly clear to Israel and to its neighbors as well. This is a constant direction, not a point of passing. May I say that as Bosnia reeled in agony you offered a compass and a lamp to a confused situation, ending blood, offering hope, like in the Middle East. It is time to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. With you, Mr. President, in the forefront, by our side, it may become possible as it did in the past, bringing thereby peace, security, and prosperity to all people.

Prophecy may meet reality again and again. Since your presidency and through our partnership, the Middle East has already undergone an unbelievable change. Here at the White House on 13 September 1993, we came to grips with the heart of the problem: The Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles created a road map by means of which the Palestinians alongside Israel are becoming masters of their destinies. Palestinian elections are a new promise that reflects the interaction between peace and democracy. Nothing is a better guarantee for peace than democracy.

Israel and Jordan are displaying its fruits day in and day out. A barren rift valley is pregnant with new prospects. Peace with Egypt remains a cornerstone of the peace process for by it regional war is no longer a justification of policies and leaves lands deserted rather than flourishing. Today, we seek an opening of a new, maybe a final, chapter: the end of war in the Middle East in its totality.

Peace between Syria and Israel and between Lebanon and Israel will leave no reason whatsoever for the continuation of belligerency. Syria together with us stands in a unique position to contribute to a peaceful Middle East. The conflict between us has been bitter, complicated. The land that gave birth to prophecy can now give birth to yet a new vision. President al-Asad and myself can, with the assistance of your leadership, Mr. President, and the assistance of your administration and Congress, build a new equation of genuine peace and security to end terror, to begin a market economy. I speak of boundaries of permanent peace; I speak of lands of new and great opportunity. Peace between us must indeed put an end to the conflict that has mired our region for so long. The President, the secretary of state, and their peace team will continue to create with us the architecture for peace in the region. We welcome it.

Today I discussed the possible new opportunity with President Clinton. I find a warmth and an openness in our discussion, and I am very grateful.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Mr. President, we are proud to be partners with you in working to make this prospect become a reality. It is my hope that President al-Asad will join us soon on this historic journey. To my fellow Israelis I can say we have in you, Mr. President, a true friend and a true partner. There is no time now for political vacation. We don't intend to rest; we intend to continue the momentum full speed ahead. In the name of all Israelis, and I think all Israelis, may I tell you, Mr. President: Toda haver [thank you, friend]; thank you, haver. [passage omitted]

You know gentlemen, Bosnia is Muslim and Israel is Jewish. Yet, this is not the right distinction when it comes to politics, in my eyes. The distinction is between aggressors and defenders, and I salute the United States of America to try to put an end to aggression and really help the people that were attacked to survive and not to suffer any longer. Thank you. [passage omitted]

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent Shim'on Schiffer] Mr. Prime Minister, did you refer to President Clinton to your readiness to withdraw from the Golan Heights as part of the peace agreement with Syria?

[Peres] You cannot lean on a single issue. We were talking about the Syrian-Israeli peace process in its totality, and I have revealed the totality.

[Schiffer] Yes, as one....

[Peres, interrupting] I understand the answer you are seeking, and that is the answer I am having. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, I just want to wish you a great success in you performing your duties in this very crucial time in Israel and the Middle East. While I am wishing you this I would like very much to ask you, Mr. Prime Minister, to release the Palestinian prisoners as soon as possible so that they will go back to their families and we will really have peace in the region, especially in the PA [Palestinian Authority]. Thank you. [passage omitted]

[Peres] Before Christmas, 450 villages in the West Bank and all the major cities, as well as Gaza and Jericho, will be under the rule of the Palestinians for the first time in history. Israel has implemented one of her greatest moral promises: not to rule another people. Believe me, it makes us content and complete by doing so. Part of the agreement was to release another 1,000 prisoners before the elections. I hope we shall release even a little bit more than that, but for the people who have blood stains on their hands. Until now, we kept every promise, every word. We were ahead of time, and I thought the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin puts an extra responsibility upon me to really do everything true to the commitment.

Topics From Clinton-Peres Meeting Detailed

TA1112203095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive in Syria on Friday [15 December] and come to Israel Saturday night, it was agreed at the Peres-Clinton meeting at the White House.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Mr. Peres did not go into details, was not asked to draw a withdrawal line, and did not do so. The early warning stations issue was not raised at the meeting.

Mr. Peres believes the time has come to deal with the totality of issues linked to the negotiations between Israel and Syria and that there is no point in discussing separate issues, such as withdrawal or security arrangements. Peres believes the format for discussions is also not decisive.

In reference to the security subjects discussed, these include the continuation of the Arrow project and defense aid to Israel, as well as Jonathan Pollard and Ron Arad. The prime minister told the President that the problem with Syria is not only borders, but also water, economic relations, and Lebanon. He stressed that he did not come to ask for money or U.S. soldiers, but regional peace.

Peres Proposes Team Approach to Talks With Syria

TA1212072395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel and Syria should set up teams to negotiate peace, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres proposed in his meeting with President Clinton. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz, who is traveling with the prime minister, reports from Washington:

[Raz] The prime minister proposes to apply the method that resulted in the Oslo B accord to the Syrian track. He suggests that the need to discuss a whole gamut of issues, rather than focus on the security arrangements, be actually applied in the talks. In his conversation with President Clinton, the prime minister proposed the establishment of working teams to address a wide range of issues that will make up the future Israeli-Syrian peace agreement.

The impression in Washington following the Clinton-al-Asad conversation was that al-Asad's reaction to the notion of expanding the negotiations was favorable, and political circles deduced therefore that the establishment of negotiating teams was almost a fact.

What will the various teams discuss? To cite Prime Minister Peres, they will address water issues, economic re-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

lations, and Lebanon, in addition to border demarcation. As in the negotiations with the Palestinians, these talks will be headed by the coordinator, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir.

And until the teams are set up, the sides will revive the ambassadorial talks that were suspended when the officers talks collapsed. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 12 December carries a related report from Washington by Shim'on Schiffer and Nahum Barne'a on pages 1 and 19, adding: "Peres told Clinton that "Israel is serious," and that it would like to resume the talks in an intensive manner in a bid to reach an agreement in the remaining six months before the Israeli and U.S. elections. The prime minister emphasized that he was posing neither preconditions nor a timetable for an arrangement.

["For the first time — and contrary to the concept promoted by his predecessor Rabin — Peres invited the U.S. Administration to step up its involvement in the Israeli-Syrian talks, to bring up proposals of its own, and to present them to the two parties."]

Netanyahu: Peres Should Listen to Shahaq's Remarks

TA1112123095 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Dec 95 p 2

[Report by Yuval Peleg, Eytan Glickman, Gabi Brun, Bina Barzel, Nehama Dowek, and news agencies]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] "The Knesset has the right to know what Syria does already," the Likud Knesset faction affirmed yesterday. The faction demands that the government report to the plenum today "on the plans for a withdrawal from the Golan Heights that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will present in the United States."

The Likud's statement stresses that the prime minister's plan to come down off the Golan is incompatible with the chief of staff's statement that only if we remain on the Golan will we be able to defend Israel in a future war.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu last night called on the prime minister "to listen to the words of Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq and his predecessor Ehud Baraq."

Speaking in a rally on Likud activists in Qiryat Ono, Netanyahu said: "How can the call of the current and former chiefs of staff to keep the Golan be squared with Mr. Peres' clear plans to hand the Golan over to Syria? The excessive price of this agreement is what drives away the chance of attaining a genuine peace, seeing that the left is actually saying that the Syrians will not want to attack us.

"We say that peace should only be based on their inability to attack us. While we remain on the Golan Heights, Syria has no war option." [passage omitted]

Baraq: Depth of Withdrawal Depends on Peace

TA1112165595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 11 Dec 95

[Report by David Ze'ev at the Knesset — italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Ze'ev] Ehud Baraq appearing as foreign minister was haunted by comments he made when he was the military chief of staff. Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu was a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee then and is still a committee member today.

[Netanyahu] *I asked today Foreign Minister Baraq if he agrees with Chief of Staff Baraq, who said that even in times of peace we must stay on the Golan Heights. Well, I fully agree and I think that any responsible Israeli Government must understand that it must insist on Israel staying on the Golan Heights in order to protect the peace and protect Israel.*

[Ze'ev] This was Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq's response today after the Knesset meeting.

[Baraq] *It is a very simplistic way of putting my position. What I have said two years ago is that purely militarily there could be such a demand to stay on some part at least of the Golan Heights. But in a democracy, it is the political leadership that is making the decisions, and whatever line would be decided by the government, the Armed Forces will come and provide us the appropriate security and early warning arrangements that will be congruent with this line. And I am confident that this will be the case when a decision is made about the line as a result of a peace with Syria if we reach such a moment.*

[Ze'ev] *Now you are a member of the government; so, what will be your recommendation with security arrangements?*

[Baraq] *I am going to present my recommendations to the prime minister on time and not to the radio.*

[Ze'ev] Likud Chairman Netanyahu believes it is possible for Israel to reach a peace agreement with Syria and stay on the Golan.

[Netanyahu] *I think its possible if the government sets that condition. We went to Madrid stating that condition. Al-Asad knew fully well that a Likud government would not get off the Golan Heights, but he came to Madrid.*

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Asad adjusts his expectations to what he thinks he can get from the current Israeli Government. From the current government he thinks he can get everything, so he is demanding it.

[Ze'ev] Foreign Minister Baraq referred to the late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's slogan that the depth of the Israeli withdrawal would be determined by the depth of peace Syria is ready to offer. According to a Knesset official, Baraq coined his own phrase at the closed door committee meeting. The depth of the withdrawal, he said, will be dependent upon the quality of peace and the strength of the security arrangements. Baraq said peace with Syria would permit Israel to be more flexible with the Palestinians in negotiating the permanent arrangement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. As the foreign minister put it: The quieter the region is, the greater our flexibility will be with the Palestinians on security issues. On the other hand, he said, the Syrians understand that time is passing them by, that they could find themselves stranded at the train station and find Israel deeply involved with the Palestinians on the permanent arrangement and putting the Syrians off to a later stage.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 11 December adds: "Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq told the Knesset that Prime Minister Peres has come to President Clinton with thoughts and ideas and will present a general evaluation of the situation. Dennis Ross, Baraq said, believes the atmosphere in Damascus is different now and that in two to three weeks it will become clear whether the conditions for real deliberations with the Syrians have been created. On the Golan issue, Baraq said that we have made it clear to the Syrians in every possible way that we do not want to dictate terms to them, but to prevent the real possibility of a sudden offensive against Israel. We want to create conditions that give us sufficient early warning to prevent an all-out clash or incidents."

[The report goes on to say: "Minister Yosi Beilin said that the government will not fully sign a peace agreement with Syria without a national referendum or elections. We will not have a sneak peace, Beilin told a Golan Heights settler delegation who conferred with him in Jerusalem. He also said that the formula coined by Yitzhaq Rabin is acceptable to this government: The depth of the withdrawal is equal to the depth of the peace."]

'Amital Said To Oppose 'Total' Golan Withdrawal

TA1112171095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Minister Without Portfolio Rabbi Yehuda 'Amital has reportedly expressed doubts that there will peace with Syria and has told a delegation of the Golan Residents Committee that he also opposes total withdrawal from the Golan. The Golan residents' delegation was in Jerusalem today for a series of discussions that included a meeting with Cabinet Minister Yosi Beilin. [passage omitted]

The group also met today with Cabinet Minister Rabbi Yehuda 'Amital, and Yishay Eldar asked one of the delegation members, Avi Ze'ira, if it had been fruitful since the minister reportedly has supported his position.

[Begin Ze'ira recording] Yes, but I cannot say that he completely supported our position, but he clearly stated that a full withdrawal from the Golan, which is, as we know, the policy of the current government, is completely unacceptable by himself. He will not support such a policy, first of all because he does not believe that it is right for the State of Israel to withdraw from the Golan, and s. ondly because he thinks it will cause a major thorn inside the Israeli public, society, and he will not support such a step. [end recording]

Tzomet Leader Questions Interest in Defense Pact

TA1012142395 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 10 Dec p 2

[Commentary by Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan: "Why a Defense Pact?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the first years following its inception, the State of Israel was in need of some sort of defense pact, particularly with the United States, the focus of Israel's political efforts. The reasons for this were understandable. Israel was in the process of putting itself together after waging a brutal war for independence. It faced the threat of terrorism from within, as well as from along its borders. Arab leaders constantly threatened war. The instability of the neighboring regimes forced their leaders to continuously divert the Arab public's attention to the Zionist state and their duty to do battle with it. And, above all, there was the Soviet Union, the superpower which gave the Arabs political support and military backing, providing them with huge quantities of arms, advisers, and instructors.

Under such conditions, it was desirable and even vital for Israel to secure the support of a leading superpower. Washington, however, resolutely refused to commit itself, fearing more tension with the Soviet Union in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

addition to the existing flash points in Europe, the Far East, and Latin America.

Now, when the idea of a military pact with the United States has once again been put on the agenda, one must ask: Why now? Where is the gain? What is the catch? In what way is the Israeli public being hoodwinked in anticipation of the 1996 elections?

The Middle East is undergoing some sort of "peace" process, whether it is genuine or not. The Soviet Union has metamorphosed into the weak, disintegrating, and divided CIS, which has a teetering economy and is growing more and more dependent on the affluent West. The CIS cannot compete with the United States in the Middle East or support countries at war, and it does not have the economic capacity to supply weapons and military equipment. There is less of a need for a defense pact with the United States now, unless it is to stop Iraq, Iran, and Libya from procuring weapons of mass destruction. As for this issue, it is almost certain that the United States will act in its own interests while taking less account, if at all, of Israel's needs. It is clear that threats against Israel will be interpreted differently in the United States and always in conformance with U.S. calculations (one should remember the Gulf war, the missile attacks against Israel, and the U.S. pressure not to retaliate).

If that is the case, why sign a defense pact? This idea may just be a cover for something else — perhaps something along the lines of psychological warfare designed to win over Israeli public opinion. Here is how it goes: In exchange for agreeing to withdraw from the Golan Heights and dropping its demand for early warning ground stations, Israel gets a defense pact with the United States. Those who concocted this scheme believe that with the right timing and if administered in small doses, this idea will become palatable to the Israeli public. The deal would then be closed.

Here is one possible scenario: The Israeli Government lulls the public into believing that there has been no breakthrough in the negotiations with Syria. The political and public movements opposed to a withdrawal on the Golan Heights tone down their activity. Then, with carefully calculated timing, Syria will seem to finally relent, and the United States will propose the idea of a vaguely formulated defense pact. The Israeli Government will "agonize." It will think over, consider, and debate the matter. As soon as the public appears amenable to the idea of swapping the Golan Heights for a defense pact, the agreement, which may have already been finalized some time earlier, will suddenly emerge, and this shrewd move will have a direct effect on the 1996 elections.

Minister Approves 100 Housing Units in Golan

TA1012161895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer has informed the head of the Qatzrin local council that he has authorized the construction of 100 new housing units in the town. Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports that the construction will begin next year.

MKs Urge Egyptian Envoy's Expulsion for Comments

TA1012110095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Dec 95 p A1

[Report by Yosef Elgazi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt's Ambassador in Israel Muhammad Basyuni last night expressed his hope that the Arab population in Israel would run a united list in the next Knesset elections, and thus increase the number of its representatives in the Knesset "for the sake of bolstering the peace process and promoting Israel's essential matters." Basyuni made the remarks at an Arab Democratic Party [ADP] preelection rally in Tel Sheva' in the Negev.

Speaking at the rally, which was attended by hundreds, Basyuni expressed his optimism regarding the continuation of the peace process with the Palestinians and hope that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres would continue on the path of his predecessor, the late Yitzhaq Rabin. According to Basyuni, a breakthrough between Israel and Syria will eventually come about.

ADP Secretary General Muhammad Kan'an told the people attending the rally that Egypt is involved in the attempts to form a joint Arab list for the next Knesset elections.

Asked whether he finds it appropriate that a foreign ambassador is involved in elections in the country where he serves, Kan'an said: "Basyuni is not a stranger to Israeli Arabs. The Egyptian authorities were involved in attempts to form a joint Arab list, which failed, during the previous elections."

The rally was also attended by Dr. Ghayth Abu-Gayth, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 10 December adds: "Right-wing Knesset members [MK's] have called on the prime minister and the foreign minister to take steps to immediately send Egypt's Ambassador in Israel Basyuni back to Cairo. Tzomet MK Pini Badash and Likud MK Yosi Ahime'ir maintain

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that Basyuni's attending the ADP rally last night is a gross violation of the rules of Israeli democracy."]

Egyptian Envoy Denies Urging Arabs To Unite

TA1112124195 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew 11 Dec 95 p 2

[Report by Muhammad Khalayla, Shim'on Ifargan, and ITIM]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni yesterday denied remarks attributed to him, under which he called on Israel's Arabs unite under a joint list in the coming elections. According to reports, Basyuni made these remarks in a rally of the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] in Tel Sheva' two days ago.

Basyuni said yesterday that he did not mention either the elections or Israel's Arabs, but stressed Egypt's commitment to the peace process and its efforts to strengthen it. He also voiced his hope that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres would follow in the late Yitzhaq Rabin's footsteps and his optimistm about the continuation of the peace process with the Palestinians in the future.

Ambassador Basyuni said he was misunderstood. What he said was that Israeli Arabs have a role to play in the peace process as a solid bridge between Israel, the Palestinians, and the Arab countries. Basyuni emphasized that he did not at all mention the upcoming Knesset elections.

Knesset Member 'Abd al-Wahhab Darawshah, chairman of the ADP, confirmed that Ambassador Basyuni did not mention the elections. Darawshah denied allegations that Egypt had interfered in the previous elections in order to influence Israeli Arabs to set up a joint Arab list. "This is totally unfounded. Egypt did not try to interfere in our internal affairs," Darawshah said. [passage omitted]

"We expect Mr. Basyuni, just as we expect all other ambassadors, not to interfere in the election campaign in Israel," Foreign Ministry officials said.

Unofficially, Foreign Ministry officials derided Basyuni's activities among Israel's Arabs. A Foreign Ministry source said: "Ever since he was appointed ambassador to Israel he has been trying to influence the voting trends of Israeli Arabs, but nobody has heeded his advise so far." The source estimated that the Foreign Ministry would not take any serious measures against the Egyptian ambassador.

Another source voiced outrage at what he termed "gross interference in Israel's internal affairs. One can only surmise what would have been Egypt's reaction had Israel conducted similar activities on its soil."

Ambassador Basyuni's reaction could not be obtained yesterday.

Poll Shows Peres Would Defeat Netanyahu

TA0812192995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Dec 95 95

["Public opinion poll commissioned by MA'ARIV and carried out by the Mutagim Institute for Marketing and Public Opinion Polls"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Question: If personal elections for prime minister were held today, which of the following candidates would have you vote?

Answers: Shim'on Peres — 45 percent; Binyamin Netanyahu — 20 percent; Dan Meridor — 5 percent; Hayim Ramon — 3 percent; Refa'el Eytan — 4 percent; David Levi — 3 percent; Ehud Baraq — 3 percent.

Question: Would you vote for Shim'on Peres or Binyamin Netanyahu, if only two candidates ran in the personal elections?

Answers: Shim'on Peres — 55 percent; Binyamin Netanyahu — 31 percent.

Mutagim conducted the poll for MA'ARIV on 7 December 1995 among a nationwide representative sample of adult Jewish population. Some 521 persons were interviewed. Sample error margin is 4.5 percent.

Netanyahu Offers Levi Slot on Party's List

TA0812193495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Dec 95 pp A1, A10

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Knesset Member [MK] Binyamin Netanyahu, the Likud chairman, has offered to guarantee the second slot on the party's Knesset list for MK David Levi, who will not have to compete in the primaries under those circumstances. The offer, which has been recently relayed to Levi through middlemen, was made in the framework of the attempt to heal the rift in the party and to bring Levi and his supporters back.

Under the Likud constitution, only the party convention has the authority to pass a constitutional amendment that will allow guaranteeing a slot on the list. In his message to Levi, Netanyahu said he was prepared to vouch that such an amendment would be endorsed.

Moreover, the party chairman agrees to the primary formula which Levi had demanded — 60:40 — under

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

which voters will mark only 60 percent of the slots on the list. The remaining 40 percent will enable six to eight Levi camp members to secure slots.

Netanyahu objected to this system, which he regarded as a demand for reserved slots, although he was willing to accept an 80:20 alternative. The Likud Central Committee then proceeded to endorse the election system proposed by the chairman, and its resolution resulted in Levi's secession from the party. Levi claimed then that this was Netanyahu's way to take over the entire list and to drive out the majority of his supporters. If Levi accepts Netanyahu's offer — that is, if his own demand is met — the central committee will have to reconvene to amend its previous resolution.

Levi said yesterday that he knows nothing about the message. Netanyahu camp members stress, however, that a proposal has been indeed relayed. The message reflects a turnabout. The Likud chairman was not ready to reach any material compromise with Levi before the Rabin assassination, and party activists attribute the change to the drastic decline in public support for the party since then. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 8 December reports that "Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that the conciliation attempts between him and David Levi are real and serious as far as he is concerned. Netanyahu added that he really wanted to hold a frank meeting in private with David Levi. The question, Netanyahu said, is whether the same was true for David Levi."]

Magen Quits Likud, Joins Levi's Movement

TA1112144495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Member [MK] David Magen has left the Likud and joined the movement being set up by David Levi. Magen told a news conference in Tel Aviv that Binyamin Netanyahu has made the Likud an uprooted party with most members feeling that they do not belong. He also charged that the Likud has abandoned social issues, which in the past were the focus of its activities, and is now only interested in political subjects.

Magen said that nobody has promised him second place on the new list. Levi only agreed with him that there would be democratic elections in the movement. Magen added that had Levi wanted to, he could have set up a faction of former Likud MK's. He stressed that he does not see anything that the Likud can do to change the outcome of the recent polls which show that Peres will defeat Netanyahu in the elections.

Shomron Quits Party; MKs To Vote Against Peres

TA1112132895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Dec 95 pp 1,2

[Report by Sarah Honig]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former chief of general staff Dan Shomron said last night that he will no longer take an active role in Third Way politics. He is to make a formal announcement to that effect at tomorrow's Third Way council session.

The movement, meanwhile, edged closer to out-and-out opposition last night, when it declared that its two MKs [Knesset Member] and two other unnamed Labor MKs would vote to bring down the government should Prime Minister Shim'on Peres declare a readiness to cede the Golan Heights.

It was not clear whether Shomron will simply adopt a passive position within the Third Way, or whether he plans to eventually leave it altogether and possibly respond to Peres's wooing and join Labor.

Shomron will not accept his appointment as head of the 25-member Third Way secretariat, after his demands to head the more compact executive secretariat were thwarted by his rival for Third Way leadership MK Avigdor Qahalani. Qahalani will be officially installed as Third Way chairman by the council tomorrow, and Prof. Alex Lubotzky will become secretariat chairman.

Should Peres make any declaration about giving up the Golan, the Third Way executive stated, Qahalani and MK 'Imanu'el Zismann "will officially withdraw from the coalition and vote against the government in confidence motions, with the intention of bringing it down."

Third Way founder Yehuda Har'el asserted that "this move would be taken not only by Qahalani and Zismann but also by two other Labor MKs. In all, Peres would be faced with the loss of four MKs who now prop up his government. He would lose his parliamentary majority."

"We have even more reason to oppose this government now than we did before Yitzhaq Rabin's death," Har'el stated.

The decision to threaten the government's majority was made at the Third Way's executive session, which had also taken up the battle between Qahalani and Shomron.

In Labor, the predictions had been that Shomron would join the party. Peres had met with him even before he was sworn in, and he has told all those around him that he was sure Shomron would join Labor.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Third Way also decided to launch a campaign calling for a clear separation between Israelis and Palestinians in view of Peres's recent talk about confederation, about allowing more Arabs to work in Israel, and about his objections to a fence along the "line of separation" in the Sharon area.

The Third Way will launch a membership drive this week and open 30 branches countrywide.

Ramon Sees 'Real Change' in Religious Parties

TA0912135495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Hayim Ramon said that the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has brought about a real change in the religious and ultra-Orthodox parties and has strengthened the moderate wing of the NRP [National Religious Parties]. The only way to maintain coexistence with the religious community, Minister Ramon told our correspondent Eytan Almog, is to preserve the status quo and refrain from precipitating a cultural war between the religious and secular publics.

Ramon revealed that prior to the last elections, the Labor Party tried to propose that the three moderate NRP Knesset members [MK's], Hammer, Sciaki, and Bibi, enter the coalition in exchange for two ministerial portfolios and one deputy minister post. However, Ramon explained, the moderates were forced to toe the line set by NRP extremists such as Porat, Yahalom, and Levi.

Rabbi Convicted of 'Running Amok' in Hebron

TA1112150495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabbi Moshe Levinger of Hebron has been convicted by a Jerusalem court again. This time he was given a six-month sentence and a six-month suspended sentence after being convicted of damaging Arab property, running amok in a public place, and unnecessarily firing shots four years ago in Hebron's market. Rabbi Levinger claimed in his defense that he and his friends were defending themselves against stones being hurled at them. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the sentencing has been put off until the end of December to enable Levinger to appeal.

IDF Leaves Nabulus; General on PA Performance

TA1212060495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Tens of thousands of Nabulus residents celebrated all night as Israeli troops withdrew and Palestinian Police took their place. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the West Bank town took place a day ahead of schedule. Mark Weiss spent the night in Nabulus and has this report:

[Begin Weiss recording] The redeployment from Nabulus was due to take place tonight, but both sides agreed to bring the withdrawal forward 24 hours, to avoid danger to both residents and the departing troops that tens of thousands of people on the streets may have caused.

It was all over before 2200, and the last Israeli troops have left Nabulus, the biggest West Bank town with a population of 120,000. Even journalists informed by the army barely had time to reach Nabulus in time to cover the redeployment. Local residents heard about the impending withdrawal from the radio, and some 5,000 people gathered in front of the former Israeli military headquarters to greet the 450 Palestinian police who arrived from Jericho. The celebrations and volleys of automatic fire continued throughout the night. [passage omitted]

It remains to be seen how long it will take the Palestinian Authority [PA] to make Nabulus a safe place. Ahmad Tabuk, the most notorious gang leader in the town, but someone who has genuine popular support, was walking around the casbah market area with other armed youths last night. It is expected that he will now become a member of the Palestinian security force in the town.

Some 1,200 Palestinian police will eventually be stationed in Nabulus. It is expected that Joseph's Tomb will reopen shortly, once the Palestinian Police have imposed their authority. Israeli troops will remain at the site. [end recording]

The IDF commander in Judaea and Samaria, Gabi Ofir, has denied allegations that the army pullout from Nabulus was being hurried. He said it was well coordinated with the PA. Both seek to minimize the potential for clashes between residents of the town and the military.

Gen. Ofir told Israel Radio that the Palestinian Police are only partially observing the redeployment agreement. He cited as an example the fact that the Palestinians are showing up in uniforms and carrying guns ahead of schedule.

Gen. Ofir met last night with Jewish settlers from Judaea and Samaria. They expressed concern for the general security in the area and yesterday's clashes between Jewish students and the army at Joseph's Tomb in Nabulus. The general told them that the yeshiva students violated an army order to evacuate the site.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Consequently, they were arrested. The legal system will decide whether they will be indicted.

Police Detain 13 Jewish Students in Nabulus

TA1112172395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Nabulus this morning, there was a confrontation between several dozen students from the Kever Yosef Yeshiva and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the students entered Nabulus despite the fact that the town had been declared a closed military area and scuffled with the soldiers at Josef's Tomb. Police detained 13 students.

The students claim, for their part, that the head of Central Command, Major General Ilan Biran, had permitted them to travel to the seminary. The army says it is also looking for a group of religious students who entered the Balatah refugee camp, which is near the Kever Yosef Yeshiva. Nabulus has been closed by the army ahead of its planned hand-over to the Palestinian Authority tomorrow night.

Tulkarm Transferred to Palestinian Authority

TA1012073195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tulkarm was transferred to the Palestinians today. Some 350 Palestinian policemen who entered the town were warmly greeted, our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports.

Palestinian Security Chief Given VIP Entry Card

TA1012161295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security service, has been given a VIP card entitling him to free access with his driver and bodyguard into Israel. Until now, the Israeli security service has been against granting al-Rujub diplomatic immunity, but in view of help he himself gave when two border policemen were kidnapped in Janin last week, they have dropped their objections.

Shahal Bars PA From Hosting Jerusalem Conference

TA1112172595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal has barred the Palestinian Authority [PA] from hosting a conference in East Jerusalem. Police were stationed at a hotel in East Jerusalem to stop the event from taking place. PA member Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] has protested against the move.

Israeli Wounded by Shots Near Bethlehem

TA0912194595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shots were fired at an Israeli vehicle in the Bethlehem region a short time ago. The incident occurred at the entrance to the Neve Daniyel settlement. Our correspondents Aviv Bushinsky and Yoni Ben-Menahem report that members of an Israeli family were driving in the car. The father of the family was wounded in the leg. The extent of his injuries is not known at this point. An ambulance from the settlement of Efrat rushed to the site of the incident, and the wounded man is receiving treatment.

Muslim Brotherhood Reportedly Banned in Territories

TA1112143895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 8 Dec 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Israeli Military Attorney-General for the Occupied Territories has prohibited the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] from forming an organization. The ban was made Nov 30, although there is no formal, legal measure forbidding such a society from being formed. Palestinian attorney Usamah 'Awdah explained the decision was taken in the wake of a rising number of Muslim Brothers coming into Palestine from Jordan. When the Israeli authorities banned Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad from being political movements, they did not include the Muslim Brotherhood.

Dropping Arrow, Ofeq From IDF Budget Urged

TA1112134595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Dec 95 p B1

[Commentary by Re'uven Pedatzur: "To Launch an Arrow Into the Air"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin's murder created a situation in which the formulation of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] multiyear plan, Mirqam [Composite] 2000, ended between defense ministers. The plan, which constitute a framework for the army's activities in the coming five years and serve as a loose framework for the coming decade, was designed by the Planning Branch based on guidelines that Rabin approved. The end product, however, is being presented to Shim'on Peres. The prime minister is preoccupied with promoting the peace process with Syria and implementing the Oslo agreement, hence there is a fear that he might miss the opportunity to deal with some aspects of Mirqam 2000.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

At least two elements of the plan deserve a thorough examination by the new defense minister. These two would cost so much that their completion and procurement might seriously harm the procurement of other essentials. At a time when cuts in the defense budget are a must, one cannot be indifferent to costly development plans whose operational and strategic value is doubtful.

This concerns two elements that the multiyear plan presents as an answer to threats from faraway countries: The Arrow antiballistic missile defense system and the Ofeq [Horizon] spy satellite. Although these two development projects are based on spearheading international technology and are a source of much national pride — they are simply redundant, too costly, and too small a benefit.

The Arrow system is supposed to defend Israel's rear area and strategic military targets from ballistic missiles. Nevertheless, the continued development of these systems are inconsistent with the basic assumptions of Mirqam 2000. It has been decided that the Arrow is one answer to threats from faraway countries such as Iran and Iraq. According to the intelligence assessments presented in the introduction of the Mirqam 2000 outline, these two countries (or at least Iran) might posses nuclear weapons within a decade. The two will also have ballistic missiles whose range might reach Israel and which can be equipped with nuclear warheads.

But, if Iran and Iraq have nuclear missiles, no Israeli policymaker would dare base Israel's defense on an active defense system like the Arrow because no defense system is hermetic. Establishing Israel's defense on an active defense system would be an unforgivable strategic mistake: After all, the situation in Israel is such that a nuclear strike in the heart of the Dan District would be unbearable.

Stationing the Arrow system in Israel would clearly signal to our enemies: We know you have nuclear missiles, and we are prepared to intercept them with our defense system. In practice, it is asking the enemy to launch its missiles. Israel's policy must be different, and its message should be: We know you have nuclear missiles, and we are not preparing to intercept them; but, if a single missile is launched at Israel, our automatic response will be very painful for you. Iranian leaders will then have a strategic choice: Does harming Israel warrant a severe blow to Iran? Considering Iran's strategic goals, the answer will probably be no.

And indeed, another component of Mirqam 2000 is deterrence, which, according to the Planning Branch definition, is based on Israel's image in the eyes of countries in the region and on a strong air force that can act over long distances. The problem is that deterrence and the Arrow project are contradictory. The contradiction between intelligence assessments and their meanings and the continued development of an active defense system calls for a reexamination of the Arrow plan guidelines. Not to mention technological obstacles (and the Gulf War proved just how difficult it is to intercept ballistic missiles, even if they are primitive Iraqi Scuds), the economic aspect (Israel will have to invest billions of dollars in development and procurement), or the opposition of the top IDF and air force brass to the continued development of the Arrow.

Launching a spy satellite of the Ofeq series is, undoubtedly, an impressive and honorable Israeli success. It would, however, be a grave mistake to be blinded by this technological achievement and translate it into a network of spy satellites. Billions of dollars will be invested in a project that will yield quite marginal strategic benefits. The Ofeq satellites orbit the earth at a low altitude, hence they collect information from a given area for only a few minutes every 24 hours. This is not enough for continuity of intelligence information in times of crisis, and certainly will not suffice for battlefield information gathering. For example, such satellites will not help locate missile launchers in Iran or Iraq. If a launcher is moved after the satellite spots it, we would not know it. In addition, a satellite's life expectancy is measured in months, after which it has to be replaced with a new one.

Israel has another option which is much cheaper and much more effective: unmanned aerial vehicles [UAV]. Israel can develop, with a relatively low investment, long-range UAV's that can spend long durations above targets, use stealth technology, and provide constantly updated information. Why should Israel invest billions in the construction of a spy satellite network whose effectiveness is only partial, when it can build a large fleet of cheap UAV's that can provide much better information?

In the absence of real parliamentary supervision of the IDF work plan, a deeper involvement by the defense minister is called for during the approval process for the new IDF multiyear plan. Peres had better ask the Planning Branch officers for some explanations before he approves Mirqam 2000.

Canceling of Drone Seen as 'Serious Blow' to IAI

TA1012134695 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Dec 95 p 9

[Report by Washington correspondent Hayim Shibi]

[FBIS Translated Text] "A serious blow to Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI]" — this is the way Washington-based Israeli sources referred to the revelation that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Hunter drone project developed jointly by IAI and the U.S. Army is about to be scrapped because of "budgetary constraints."

The Israeli-U.S. Hunter was designed to accompany ground troops entering hazardous terrain and could have played a major role in the U.S. involvement in Bosnia. The close race with the Predator, a drone developed by the U.S. Air Force, and a series of mishaps during the trial use of the Hunter, however, marked it "destined for scrapping." The Hunter has not been put into operation, and this fact is being read as an ominous sign with regard to its future financing.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

King Husayn Vows To Fight Terrorism, Extremism

JN0912121895 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king says a majority of Arabs and Israelis is in favor of the peace process and wants a better future for the next generations.

In an interview with the French weekly magazine POINT DE VIEW published today, his majesty said he was convinced that the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had bolstered a belief in the region of the need to reach the aspired goal of peace.

His majesty vowed that Jordan would stand firm against terrorism and extremism. He noted that no organization could plan for attack in the country whether against the PLO or the kingdom's policy.

King Receives Letter From Iranian President

JN1012153995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Ahmed Dastmalchian, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Jordan, at the Royal Hashemite Court today. The Iranian ambassador handed his majesty a written message from His Excellency President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The message deals with relations between the two sisterly countries and the need to foster them in the interests of the peoples of the two sisterly countries and the Islamic nation.

Prime Minister Receives Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz

JN1112100695 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Dec 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — AL-RA'Y — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister, left Amman yesterday after spending one night here en route to New York to meet with the UN Sanctions Committee.

Informed sources told AL-RA'Y that a meeting was held yesterday morning between Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and 'Aziz. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations, the conditions of the Iraqi people, and the regional situation.

Al-'Ahd Party Leader Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

JN1112143495 Amman AL-'AHD in Arabic 11 Dec 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, secretary general of the al-'Ahd [Pledge] Party and member of the Jordanian House of Representatives, met in his home Sunday morning with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. They discussed issues of common interest to the two countries.

The secretary general reviewed with Tariq 'Aziz the matter of lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq, as well as domestic Iraqi developments.

The secretary general told 'Aziz that resolving Iraqi problems begins at home by activating the political pluralism laws and giving Iraqis the opportunity to build a strong, democratic Iraq by allowing political parties to function, and by according more freedom to all forces and key figures inside or outside of Iraq to participate in political affairs within a legal and party framework—even if these forces and figures belong to the opposition.

Al-Kabariti Cited on Iranian Envoy's Expulsion

JN1112120195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Dec 95 p 23

[Report by Hamdan al-Hajj]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Iranian diplomatic sources in Amman said that Sa'id Bateni, third secretary at the Iranian Embassy [name and title as received], will return to Tehran within the time limit set by international diplomatic norms.

In exclusive statements to AL-DUSTUR, these sources said that in a reciprocal move, the Iranian Government asked Ahmad Faysal al-Sabbagh, a diplomat at the Jordanian Embassy in Tehran, to leave the Iranian capital for the same bases and reasons the Jordanian Foreign Ministry expelled the Iranian diplomat.

On Saturday 9 December, the Foreign Ministry summoned Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Dastmalchian to the Hashemite Court and informed him of its decision to declare Bateni persona non grata and that he should leave Jordan for activities incompatible with his status as a diplomat in Jordan.

In the memorandum to the Iranian ambassador, the Foreign Ministry said that Bateni, who has been working in Amman for two years, was detained by the police in Ma'an after a citizen accused him of inciting him to attack Israeli tourists in Petra.

Well-informed sources said that Bateni, who speaks fluent Arabic, used to move around in taxis in a suspicious manner. Bateni urged citizens he met in Ma'an to refuse to deal with Jews and to reject their presence in Petra.

In statements to REUTER, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti yesterday said that the second man at the Iranian Embassy in Amman was expelled for security reasons.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He said: We believe that there are security considerations, which transcend any other considerations here in Jordan and our action was based on this.

Ranking diplomatic sources in Amman previously said that the Iranian diplomat, whose expulsion was announced last Saturday, is accused of planning to ambush foreign tourists in the ancient city of Petra.

The diplomats said that a taxi driver turned the Iranian diplomat in to the police while he was on a tour of southern Jordan.

Hours after the expulsion decision against the Iranian diplomat, Iran asked a Jordanian diplomat, identified by al-Kabariti as Ahmad al-Sabbagh, to leave Iran within a week.

Commenting on Tehran's decision to expel the Jordanian diplomat, al-Kabariti said: I do not believe that this will affect relations.

He added: The Jordanian desire to maintain strong relations with the brothers in Iran is beyond doubt. However, we hope that relations will be based on respect for the sovereignty of states and noninterference in their affairs.

Al-Kabariti said that al-Sabbagh is an administrative clerk and not a diplomat at the Jordanian Embassy. He noted that a single diplomat, the charge d'affaires, has been running the embassy since the end of the ambassador's tenure this year.

Amman Said Exploiting Seizure of Iraq-Bound Parts

JN1112170895 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 13 Dec 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] For security, operational, or political reasons, an official announcement on the sensitive spare parts shipment confiscated at Amman airport destined for Baghdad has been delayed .

The information gathered by AL-BILAD shows that the trader who imported the spare parts used in long-range missiles is Wi'am Abu-Gharbiyah. He was a member of a Palestinian security organ, but he resigned and worked independently.

The information says that Abu-Gharbiyah had a trade office in Baghdad, and he used to travel there via Jordan. He has had business in Russia for years, and this was a fact which all authorities in the region were aware of. The information also says he has connections with the Iraqi security organs that financed the shipment, worth $25 million.

It seems that the shipment of these parts was being observed by more than one security service, and this led to its confiscation prior to reaching Baghdad.

Jordan tried to exploit the confiscation in the media to show its adherence to the UN resolutions and its new position toward the regime in Iraq.

Undoubtedly, the nature of the shipment has political dimensions, because developing or fixing the Iraqi long-range weapons implies that Iraq would regain the ability to hit Tel Aviv, Riyadh, the Gulf states, and Tehran. This is considered a blatant violation of the embargo the United Nations imposed on Iraq.

The spare parts shipment is a political shipment that was turned into a political issue, has been exploited for political reasons.

Hashd Party Charged With Having Links to DFLP

JN1212083895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Dec 95 p 12

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'ida al-Kilanito]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Ministry of Interior is suing the Jordan People's Democratic Party, a leftist group, on charges of having financial, ideological, and administrative links with a foreign group.

The charge is based on interviews some of party's members gave to the press asserting that the party, known as Hashd, maintains links with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) led by Nayif Hawatmah and based in Syria.

Salim al-Nahhas, Hashd's secretary general, will appear in court on Thursday. In a telephone interview with the JORDAN TIMES, Mr. al-Nahhas denied the charge but made no further comment.

The Political Parties Law, enacted in 1992, stipulates that Jordanian parties should not have any links with outside parties.

The charge against the party is believed to be based on complaints aired by party members in interviews carried by AL-RA'Y and AL-DUSTUR about the party's alleged links with the DFLP.

Several members resigned from the party this year, including its secretary general, Taysir al-Zibri, and Bassam Haddadin, a member of the Lower House of Parliament.

Mr. al-Zibri and Mr. Haddadin have cited what they described as the lack of party's independence as the main reason for their resignation.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Opposition parties will hold a press conference today to comment on the case against Hashd.

Minister Authorizes Establishment of New Party

JN1212110095 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Dec 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad approved the establishment of the Jordanian Arab Partisans Party [hizb al-ansar al-'arabi al-urduni] in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the National Charter, and the Parties Law of 1992.

Muhammad Faysal al-Majali is the party's leader, Muhammad Jihad al-Shuraydah is the party's secretary general, and Muhammad 'Ali al-'Amayirah is the party's deputy secretary general. Among the party's founding members are the following: Mahmud al-Tarawinah, 'Awni al-Rujub, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi, Nabil al-Kafawin, Ahmad Khattab, Sulayman al-Majali, Walid Mahmud, Muhammad al-Khatib, Nayif al-Shatarat, and Khalil al-Ma'ayitah.

Opposition Leader Denies Slandering King

JN1212095395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Dec 95 p 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'ida al-Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The president of the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA), Layth Shubaylat, arrested on charges of slandering Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur, denied the charges on Monday, according to his lawyer Jawad Yunus.

Mr. Shubaylat was brought before Attorney General Major Mahmud 'Ubaydat at the State Security Court Monday morning. During questioning, he said he was not guilty of all charges against him. The charges include distributing statements that are considered offensive to Their Majesties, inciting sectarian and ethnic troubles, undermining the country's financial status, and shaking the confidence in the Jordanian dinar.

Mr. Shubaylat, who was arrested on Saturday, has been ordered held for two weeks. Mr. Yunus said he would seek a bail today (Tuesday).

According to Mr. Yunus, the four charges, which are believed to be based on lectures Mr. Shubaylat gave in the last two months, are considered as an offence and not crime. Therefore, he said, they carry a maximum sentence of three years.

Mr. Shubaylat, an independent Islamist and an opposition leader, surrendered to the authorities on Saturday after being accused of slandering the King and Queen. Prior to his arrest, Mr. Shubaylat held a press conference in his lawyer's office in which he heavily criticised the government's policies.

Two years ago, Mr. Shubaylat was tried and convicted of plotting against the regime. He was sentenced to death, but it was reduced to life imprisonment. He was released when the King made a general pardon.

Journalists Condemn Plan To Amend Press Law

JN0912131195 Amman THE STAR in English 7-13 Dec 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Ra'd al-'Abid]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The countdown for the end of the golden era of press freedom has begun—some say. If the Government has its way, nine out of the 54 articles of the Press and Publication law are to be amended.

The amendments empower the Prime Ministry to close down newspapers and withdraw their licenses in cases where they violate article (40) three times.

The new draft law annuls the article that call on the Government to gradually sell its shares in the daily press — AL-DUSTUR and AL-RA'Y. If the proposed law is passed, the Government will continue to maintain its presence in the administration of these newspapers including the appointment of chief editors.

Under the draft law, which was drafted by the Ministry of Information, chief editors must be members of the Jordan Press Association for at least seven years.

New fines and penalties will be instituted if the amendments become law: The violation of article 40 of the draft law involves imprisonment for a period ranging between three months to three years; also financial penalties can be imposed ranging from JD [Jordanian dinars] 500 to JD 10,000.

Last Sunday, the council of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) held an emergency meeting to discuss the latest amendments on the Press and Publication law. The JPA rejected such amendments outright and its President, Sulayman al-Qudah, announced that he informed Minister of Information Khalid al-Karaki of JPA's position.

In a meeting with Dr al-Karaki, JPA representatives submitted their objections to the amendments. "We adhere to our rejection of any amendment (to the present)," Mr. al-Qudah told THE STAR, and we don't need any more."

Former Minister of information and veteran journalist Mr. Mahmud al-Sharif feels strongly about the proposed amendments. "Press violations do not give the Government the excuse to amend the current law," he said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

"Punishment must be come from the judicial under the present law and not from the Government as the latter might resort to repression," Mr. al-Sharif, who actively defended the present law during the Lower House debates in 1993, said.

Commenting on the vague and loose wording of the proposed amendments. Mr. al-Sharif asked about how to define state dignity. "Why don't they clarify it?" He asked. "State dignity comes through defending press freedom, not by curtailing it."

Observers feel the new proposal is targeted mainly at Jordan's weeklies, whose numbers more than doubled since the present law was enacted in 1993.

"The Government wanted to amend articles that give the press the opportunity to highlight Government neglect," said Jihad al-Mumani, chief editor of the widely circulated SHIHAN weekly. "the Government does not want the press to talk about its failure in Arab reconciliation, its failure to deepen the roots of national unity, or its failure to improve the economic situation," al-Mumani, whose paper is critical of Prime Minister Zayd Bin-Shakir's Government, told THE STAR. "Under the proposed law the Government will send journalists to jail if they write about any of these subjects," he added. He said such topics will become taboo since the Government will consider them as violating the "state's dignity,' or insulting friendly countries," al-Mumani said.

"The text (of the proposed bill) and the kind of mentality that draft such an absurd law shocked us.," said Mr. Hilmi al-Asmar, editor-in-chief of AL-SABIL weekly, the mouthpiece of the Islamic movement in Jordan. "If it is implemented, it will assassinate the press and its freedom. Journalists will face imprisonment if they slip or make a mistake in their duty, or if they were misunderstood by any," he added.

Fears that such amendments will take the country back to the martial law era are increasing. It is argued that gains made by the press over the past five years will be swept away, tarnishing Jordan's image abroad.

"There is no need to change the current law. What we need actually is to implement and enforce the present law," Dr. Nabil al- Sharif, editor-in-chief of AL-DUSTUR daily, said.

A clear item in article 40 of the current law states that no newspaper may publish material that threatens national unity. "Why hasn't the Government moved against many people who have written against national unity in the past few months?" Dr. al-Sharif asked.

"I am really worried about the perception of Jordan abroad. We may sugarcoat these amendments as much as we can, but it will boil down to one single fact: that Jordan has amended the press law and usually laws of this nature are amended towards more restriction," Dr. al-Sharif said.

"In what language will we talk to the world who we are trying to make partnerships with, while the Government is muzzling our opinions?" asked al-Asmar.

"Such amendments are not only a regression, but seriously affect the democratic process, as press freedoms are the parameters of democracy in any country," said Mr. Khalid al-Kassasbah, chief editor of AL-BILAD weekly, a newspaper accused by many of resorting to sensationalism and over-exaggerations in its reporting. Mr. al- Kassasbah is facing charges of slander by the Lower House Speaker and the Muslim Brotherhood Overseer Mr. 'Abd al-Majid al-Thunaybat.

"The judicial system and not the Government must have the ultimate say on issues relating to sedition, regionalism, sectarianism, insulting the Armed forces and harming national security," Mr. Muhammad al-Subayhi, a leading lawyer and columnist told THE STAR.

He considered article 50 of the draft law as most surprising. It will deal with the implementation of the law, once passed, retroactively giving newspapers and journalists three months to correct their situation in light of the new law.

"This is an open invitation to the press to immigrate. Why not maintain our press under our observation, rather than being subject to another country's blackmail?" al-Subayhi [sentence, item incomplete as published]

Paper Decries Plans To Amend Press Law

JN0912115495 Amman THE STAR in English 7-13 Dec 95 p 3

[Unattributed "People and Politics" column: "A Brief History of Democracy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Is the democratic honeymoon in Jordan over? This is a question worth asking today as the Government prepares to send a draft law to the Lower House drastically amending the present Press and Publication Law, which is considered by many independent observers as the most liberal press law in the region today. The amendments, parts of which have been leaked to the press this week, are a clear departure from the present law and aim at curtailing freedom of expression, and independence of newspapers.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The draft law empowers the Government to intimidate journalists and newspapers in a number of ways including withdrawal of license, heavy fines and imprisonment. The loosely written articles of the draft law effectively make it a violation to publish stories that are critical of friendly countries, such as Israel, a country with which we have a peace treaty and with which Jordan has vital relations, or even New Zealand for that matter.

Even worse, the draft makes it a crime to criticize the State (i.e. the Government) or to publish news that may be deemed as weakening its prestige or authority. Moreover, the proposed law introduces a number of financial and legal conditions for the chief editor, the owners and the capital of the publication which is seen as a way to "weed out" most, if not all, the local weeklies, the majority of which are labelled as opposed to the Government and its policies.

In stark contradiction with another Government intention, which aims at deconstructing professional unions by making membership to these unions nonobligatory, the proposed law reiterates again that the chief editor must be a "journalist" (i.e. member of the Press Association) and that he must have at least seven years experience— which is measured not by how long he has been practicing his profession, but by the term of his association membership.

Such strict regulations of the Jordanian press bring memories of the pre-democracy era when, under the defunct martial laws, Jordanian journalists were harassed, intimidated, imprisoned without trial or charge for what they wrote and had their publications closed indefinitely, or licences withdrawn by the authority of the minister of information and the council of ministers.

The government hopes to pass this law in the current Parliamentary session. How the deputies will react to the proposed draft is unpredictable. While the Government has a strong support in the House, it is inconceivable how any democratically elected deputy will come out of his way to support this extremely undemocratic bill.

But the most direct question about the planned Government coup against the Jordanian press is, why? The current law which in spite of its liberal traits compared to its predecessor, has been criticized by Jordanian journalists back in 1993 when it was passed, because it contained too many restrictions. The law was also attacked by western media and human rights watch groups on the same grounds.

Under the current law, publications are barred from publishing stories that harm national unity, degrade religions or sects, and incite hatred among society members, and crime. It includes ample legal and financial punishments for violators who publish articles that compromises the King and the Royal Family, heads of friendly states, the Armed Forces, among others.

But on the other hand it says nothing about running stories that may affect Jordan's foreign relations or "embarrass" the Government and tarnish its image. The problem, though, is that the Government has not used the present law to deal with the loose cannons in the mostly weekly press which may have embarrassed the Government on a number of occasions, allegedly delayed the recovery of Jordan's relations with some Gulf countries and are currently in the forefront of the anti-normalization campaign with Israel.

His Majesty the King has vehemently criticized the Jordanian media recently and urged the Government to review the present law. The main target of the new law will be the weeklies which are accused of being sensation-driven in their coverage. But if the proposed amendments are passed, then the whole press structure will be affected and Jordan's democracy would receive a terrible blow.

Sensational press is an unavoidable secretion of democratic systems. While laws and regulations must guard against harming national unity and offending religions, the Government mandate should not be overextended to include regulating what material journalists can write about.

Furthermore, in a democratic society like ours, unilateral "reform" of the press law is simply undemocratic. There is much that Jordanian journalists, those who are committed to their profession and constitute the majority, can contribute to creating a more responsible and sensitive press that takes into account all the overriding issues which make the Government so unhappy.

We realize that Jordanian democracy cannot be compared to western-brand democracies because of cultural, political and economic realities. But we also know that a free press is a prerequisite to a thriving and vibrant democracy. We should not throw away one of the pillars of our democracy so easily.

Bin-Shakir: Change To End Tabloids' 'Excesses'

JN1112140995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Dec 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir yesterday rejected accusations that his government was intent on lowering the ceiling of press freedom in the country, stressing that "responsible" journalists had nothing to fear from amendments

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

to the Press and Publications Law that are under discussion now.

In a meeting he held with editors-in-chief of daily newspapers at his office, the prime minister said the objective of the expected amendments was to deter newspapers, mainly weekly tabloids, which do harm to both Jordan's image abroad and to Jordanian values at home.

The mainstream press need not worry about new restrictions being imposed on their freedom to report and comment on various issues, he said. What have to stop are excesses (in the tabloids) which the state, and its people, can neither afford nor tolerate.

The prime minister reminded the editors of earlier statements he made regarding the press, specifically of the pledge to introduce any amendments only through the constitutional process—starting with drawing up proposals by the Ministry of Information in consultation with legal experts, then approving the draft proposals by the Cabinet before submitting the whole legislative package to Parliament for consideration and passage.

This is the due process of the law, the prime minister stressed, which could ensure both fairness and democratic practice. He added: The government is not out to muzzle journalists; on the contrary, it fully understands, even appreciates, critical articles that are written in good faith and for the benefit of the state.

Al-Sharif Zayd complained that attacks in the press generally against the government (for initiating the amendments) are not justified, since (such amendments) have not yet been drafted, let alone finalised.

How can the press launch a campaign against amendments that are still being conceived, he asked. And then, how can the "responsible" journalists stand against slight legislative changes that are intended to deter "irresponsible" behaviour by other journalists, he added.

The prime minister did not disclose what the amendments were or what specific articles in the law they related to. But the minister of information, Khalid al-Karaki, who attended the meeting, explained that they did not entail new jail sentences for violators of the law.

There will probably be a couple of slight amendments to the law, Dr. al-Karaki said, without elaborating. What the government can assure journalists of, he went on to say, is that the changes will ultimately be worked out with the Jordan Press Association and to its satisfaction.

In the 45-minute debate that ensued, the prime minister listened to different views by the editors on how the "yellow press" might be tackled, short of amending the press law, which was passed by the 11th Parliament in 1993. But while he did not say whether the government would abandon plans to change the law if the journalists themselves would contribute to solving the issue of tabloid "sensationalism," he left the door open for such an effort to be made. It is up to the Jordan Press Association to organise an effort in this regard, he would only say. Our goal is clear in that something has to be done (in order to ensure the practice of responsible journalism in the country), and the government leaves it up to others to do their share, he added.

The prime minister did not rule out the possibility that an independent council might eventually be set up to monitor and deal with press violations in the country. Such a council was called for in the original draft of the 1993 law only to be dropped later just before it was presented to Parliament for approval. But the idea proved too controversial among the editors themselves to leave a meaningful impact on yesterday's meeting.

Dr. al-Karaki, on the other hand, broached the idea of an altogether new press and publications law that talks solely about press freedoms, while violations would be left for the Penal Code to deal with. The problem with such a solution, though, is that journalists would end up facing penalties in cases of violation, he said.

According to reports circulating among journalists, the draft amendments to the law would include empowering the government with the right to close down publications, raising from JD 50,000 to JD 100,000 the minimum capital for newspapers, imposing stiffer penalties on violators of the law and requiring chief editors to have been members of the Jordan Press Association for at least seven years.

However, both the prime minister and the information minister dismissed these reports as either false or inaccurate, stressing that no final decision has yet been taken on the nature of the changes that will be introduced to the law.

It is a matter of public record that it was the first government of al-Sharif Zayd in 1989 that laid the groundwork for the new age of democracy and pluralism in this country, Dr. al-Karaki told the editors. it is inconceivable that a government led by such a prime minister would now attempt to limit freedom of the press, he said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Asad Receives President Clinton's Phone Call

JN1112213395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2118 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad this evening received a phone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton. They discussed the peace process.

President Clinton underlined the United States' concern for and commitment to the peace process. He informed his excellency that he will dispatch U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Damascus to brief Syria on the efforts exerted by the United States to boost the peace process and on the talks the Israeli prime minister had in Washington.

President al-Asad stressed that Syria is serious about the peace process, is committed to that process and its principles, and is determined to make efforts to arrive at the objectives set for it.

Minister: Progress Depends on Peres' Offers in U.S.

MM1112145795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Dec 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Syrian Information Minister Tells AL-HAYAH: Insistence on Early-Warning Station Torpedoing Positive Aspects"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Syrian Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman has stressed in a statement to AL-HAYAH Syria's "conclusive" refusal to accept any ground warning station on the Golan after Israel's withdrawal. He said that the issue "is not negotiable, because it (a station) would perpetuate the occupation and harm Syrian sovereignty." However, he reemphasized his country's "seriousness" in "achieving a comprehensive peace." He expressed his hope that the Israelis will not waste "the opportunity by making proposals which have led to nothing" over four years of negotiation.

Dr. Salman said that "all that has been said about peace" by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and other Israeli officials since Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination "is no more than media propaganda, and the insistence on early-warning stations is torpedoing all that has been said about peace."

Israeli Ambassador to Washington Itamar Rabinovic had stressed insistence on ground warning stations, but he said that they "are not a condition" for resuming the negotiations between the two sides.

The Syrian information minister said: "We hope that time will not be wasted in the future like it has been wasted (by the Israelis) over recent years through unworkable proposals reflecting no goodwill vis-a-vis achieving peace. We hope that the opportunity available after Rabin's death will not be wasted" and that "no futile proposals, like the ones used before," will be used on the Syrian track.

The senior Syrian official reiterated that the establishment of a ground warning station "is completely rejected." And that Israel's demand for it "is torpedoing all that has been said about peace. Because such a proposal is rejected by Syria, not negotiable, and (a station) would harm Syrian sovereignty and perpetuate the occupation" of the Golan Heights, from which Damascus is urging Syria to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 lines.

Asked about a mechanism for a way out of the situation, namely the Israelis' demand for a ground station, which is completely rejected by Syria, he said: "When they insist on (setting up) a ground station, it means that they do not want a real, comprehensive, and just peace." Israel's demand for the station has led to the suspension of the negotiations on the Syrian track since June.

In the same context informed Syrian sources have provided "a positive assessment" of the results of the talks held in Damascus by Denis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process. The sources said that "the issue of reactivating the Syrian track depends on Peres' meeting with (U.S. President Bill) Clinton in Washington tomorrow, Monday."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH the sources expressed their hope that Peres' statements — namely that peace is more important than the elections and that peace with Syria means peace with 22 Arab states — "will be coupled with executive decisions to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region."

On Peres' desire to hold comprehensive negotiations over the four elements concerning peace, withdrawal, security arrangements, and the timetable, the sources said: "Peace can only be complete when all elements of peace are discussed." And Syria is willing to discuss "the measures that could formulate peace." The sources added that Damascus adheres to "the principles and foundations of peace. And discussing the details depends on what is proposed by them (the Israelis) and whether or not it can be discussed." The sources said that advancing the Syrian track "and all matters depend on what Peres is going to offer in Washington."

Commentary Reiterates Damascus' Peace Position

JN1112160895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 11 Dec 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Following the repeated statements made by Shim'on Peres in which he

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

emphasized the importance of peace and the priority he gives to peace over anything else, including the Israeli elections, a spark of hope was seen that the stalemate in the peace process may end and that progress may take place. This is something vital for peace in order to restore its ability and to resume its march in steps that are supposed to be different from the previous steps and on a path different from that which Israel pursued to cause the stalemate.

If Peres' statements show a desire for peace, undoubtedly the desire alone does not make peace. The desire should be accompanied by determination to move forward on the peace path so that it will be possible to attain peace. The peace path with all its dimensions is short and straight the same as any line between two points. Certainly the shortest line is the straightest one, therefore, the path between the points of war and peace cannot be spiral and twisted.

Probably the Israeli prime minister is aware of what all officials in the world, headed by the United States, are aware of — that when Syria announced its desire for peace, it also announced its determination to achieve peace. Therefore, Syria followed the path of peace in serious steps and was determined to reach this peace. Syria overcame all obstacles obstructing peace which were under its control.

The stalemate in the peace process was caused by the obstacles set by Israel and its demands. Israel knew that these demands were rejected because they conflicted with real peace and because they encroached on Syria's dignity and its right to liberate every inch of its national soil.

The coming days will show if the desire for peace that was announced by the Israeli prime minister is sincere and how determined he is to translate this desire into reality.

We believe the Israeli prime minister is aware that Syria's belief in the sincerity of his desire for peace depends on how willing he is to respect the will of international legitimacy, how ready he is to implement Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and how committed he is to the land-for-peace principle.

We also think that speaking about a price that Israel will pay in return for peace is only an exposed fallacy and a blatant attack on the truth. Returning something Israel does not possess to those entitled to it and returning something it usurped from them is not considered a price. Traditionally and legally, the price is something that is paid from the buyer's money and not the money of the others. Based on this, if Israel withdraws from the occupied territories, it would be buying peace with all its virtues and profits without paying what can rightly be called a price.

Generally, if the Israeli prime minister is really aware of the importance of peace with Syria, then he should be aware that the road to peace will not face any obstacle if anything that encroaches on Syria's dignity and rights are eliminated. The road to peace will continue to depend on Israel's preparedness to withdraw from the Golan, return to the 4 June borders, withdraw from the Lebanese territories to the 1978 borders, and accept security arrangements that are parallel [mutawaziyah], equitable [mutakafi'ah], equal [mutasawiyah], and reciprocal [mutaqabilah]. Anything less than this, will make the achievement of peace difficult.

Press Criticizes Peres' Washington News Conference

JN1212092895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Dec 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial entitled "The Road to Peace is Clear," the newspaper TISHRIN says: It is widely known that Israeli officials tend to complicate matters and overexaggerate their security concerns. Their overexaggeration blinds them to various aspects of the issue in question and prompts them to attempt to force unacceptable conditions on the other side. They are not reluctant to claim a right to retain control of part of the territories they have occupied under security pretexts that do not hold water and that are in violation of the relevant UN resolutions.

TISHRIN adds: It is well known that Syria does not like these complications. As a matter of fact, Syria views these complications as contrived obstructions to the peace process. Syria's perspective regarding the peace process is very simple. This perspective stipulates that the Syrian territories occupied in 1967 were acquired by force in violation of the cease-fire agreement, and that Lebanese territory was occupied during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. If peace is to prevail in the region, Israel is required to comply with the relevant international legitimacy resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

TISHRIN goes on to say: A complete Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders and the elimination of all traces of the occupation of the Golan are prerequisites for peace. This is how Syria views peace. Thus, Syria seeks to uphold fairness and justice, and to vindicate the relevant international legitimacy resolutions as well as the principles of international law.

In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH addresses the talks held in Washington between U.S. Pres-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ident Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, saying: The joint news conference the two held at the White House after their talks has not brought anything new in the political discourse Peres has used since he assumed his duties as Israeli prime minister. This news conference addressed important issues, but in general terms. Peres has failed to detail the new ideas he said he was carrying to the U.S. Administration. Moreover, Peres made a flagrant attempt to throw the ball into the Syrian court, which is unacceptable for many reasons.

AL-BA'TH adds: Peres has spoken of audacity, and of an historic opportunity. We would like to respond to this by saying that it was Syria which upheld the peace of the brave grounded in international legitimacy and the terms of reference of the peace initiative.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: At any rate, given the assurances he received from the U.S. president on the U.S. interest in and commitment to the peace process, and that he is sending the U.S. secretary of state on a new mission in the region, leader al-Asad renewed Syria's commitment to the peace process and its principles. This is a principled and firm position that can help achieve a just and comprehensive peace that meets the requirements of the peace process. Israel must not waste this opportunity.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Based on its continued refusal to subscribe to the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, Israel appears as though it is still not ready for genuine peace. It has continued to pursue tactics based on maneuvering and deception. Sometimes, it seeks to apply pressures, as was made clear by Peres yesterday.

AL-THAWRAH adds: We believe that Peres, before others, is well aware that Syria cannot be intimidated by the time factor, or by any other factor, for that matter, because it has firm positions and principles regarding the peace process, which it has made public from the outset. These positions and principles have been supported and appreciated by the entire world community. Syria strongly adheres to these positions and principles. It has nothing else to offer. Moreover, under no circumstances whatsoever can it abandon any of its rights or a single inch of its territory. For Syria, peace has to be just, comprehensive, and thorough. Otherwise, there will be no peace. The efforts it is making to foster such peace are commensurate with those made by the other side. Progress in the peace process is contingent upon an Israeli change of heart, upon an Israeli willingness to meet the requirements of peace to reciprocate the commitment Syria has made in this regard.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: It is our hope, and the hope of the world community, for that matter, that the U.S. secretary of state will carry with him, during his upcoming tour of the region, something useful to prove that the United States is playing the role of a full partner. Only then can peace be close at hand.

Al-Asad Receives Sudan Presidency Minister

JN1112172295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Sudanese Minister of Presidency 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn and his delegation at al-Rawdah Palace at 1300 today.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Presidential Affairs Wahib Fadil and the Sudanese ambassador in Damascus.

The Sudanese minister conveyed a message and greetings to the president from the Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, and the president asked him to convey a reply message and good wishes to President al-Bashir and the fraternal Sudanese people.

Talks dealt with the situation in the region and the peace process. The Sudanese minister expressed Sudan's high appreciation of Syria's principled and pan-Arab positions. He discussed the situation in Sudan and neighboring areas.

'High-Level' Sources: Amman Fears Syria-Iraq Ties

MM1212111195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Dec 95 p 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Syrian Sources: We Will Not Allow Bombings in Jordan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Some high-level Syrian sources have expressed surprised at statements by Jordanian officials that there are "[hostile] media campaigns" between Syria and Jordan, stressing that Syria "would not allow bombings to be carried out against the Jordanian people" and that "the Jordanians love President Hafiz al-Asad."

Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti had said that there are "plans by extremist groups, based in Damascus, to carry out operations against Jordan." He told AL-HAYAH in Amman that the meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has resulted in an agreement to "halt the media campaigns" on both sides.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The high-level Syrian sources, however, told AL-HAYAH in Damascus that "the campaign was one-sided and, so far, we have not joined in the media altercation" originating in Amman. They refuted the "agreement" concerning the halting of media campaigns mentioned by al-Kabariti, adding: "The Jordanian people are our people, and love Syria and Syria's leader."

The sources stressed that Damascus refuses to "harm Jordan or carry out any bombings in Jordan" originating from Syrian territory or from organizations based in Damascus, saying: "Any harm that befalls Jordan befalls us." They pointed out that the Jordanian statements are intended to "justify plans to be carried out against Jordanians in the future."

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam had strongly criticized the role that Jordan is trying to play in order to change the Iraqi regime and divide Iraq into three parts. Al-Kabariti responded to Khaddam's positions by accusing him of "political hypocrisy." The informed sources said that Jordan fears any Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement and that it is trying to polarize Iraqi opposition after the defection to Amman of Staff General Husayn Kamil, President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law, because King Husayn met with opposition leaders during his recent visit to London.

The same sources mentioned the "extended interrogation" by Jordanian intelligence services of an Iraqi delegation traveling to Syria via Jordan to attend meetings of the technical commission for the demarcation of Iraqi-Syrian borders. The delegation was headed by Sami Kazim, a director in the Iraqi Irrigation Ministry, and included two security officers and some experts.

Although Kazim refused to talk about last week's visit, members of the delegation told AL-HAYAH that Jordanian intelligence stopped them on their way to Syria and "interrogated the delegation, and especially the two security officers accompanying it, for nearly four hours." They explained that "they [Jordan] fear any Syrian- Iraqi rapprochement which would open the borders, because of their economy's reliance on trade with the Iraqis," and stressed that the meetings "are of a technical nature and for the purpose of demarcating and defining the borders along international lines and taking into account all political dimensions."

Committee on Iraq Border Demarcation Reaches Accord

MM1112172495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Dec 95 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources have told AL-HAYAH that meetings held in Damascus by the Syrian-Iraqi technical border committee have produced an agreement on fixing the border between the two countries in accordance with the British and French Mandates of 1923. The sources disclosed that the adoption of the international demarcation has returned to Syria an oil well the Iraqis utilized for several years.

The sources pointed out that the committee, which was formed in 1992 after the emergence of some problems because some border points between the two countries in the desert were not clear, held its seventh meeting in Damascus. The other six meetings were held between border cities and the two capitals. The most recent w.s held in Baghdad early in the year. The sources said that the seventh meeting, which was held in Damascus under Sami Kazim, a director from the Iraqi Irrigation Ministry, and Dirgham Falluh, director of the Syrian real-estate administration, was attended by security officers, survey experts, and representatives from the Foreign and Interior Ministries in the two countries.

The sources added that the Syrian side allowed the Iraqi delegation to visit some Syrian areas. And that the technical border committee's meeting, which was held 2-5 December, resulted in the signing of "the final minutes of the committee," which was set up at the beginning of 1992 "because border points were unclear." The sources pointed out that the final statement of the meeting "included fixing 22 border points, setting up small points between the big centers, and returning any points that had been moved inside any of the two countries' territory to their previous positions, after the studies conducted by the survey experts in recent years on the basis of the lines of the French and British Mandates of 1923."

The sources stressed that "the new-old demarcation has returned to both sides some of the territory they thought belonged to them, including agricultural land." The sources said that the Syrian side has recovered an oil well called "Safiyah-39," which the Iraqis utilized on the assumption that it was in their territory. The sources went on to say that the two sides "are satisfied with the results of the meetings."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The technical committee is the second between Syria and Iraq. There is also the committee entrusted with coordinating positions vis-a-vis the distribution of Euphrates waters. The Syrian side in this committee visited Baghdad in the middle of the year to coordinate positions before urging Turkey to hold a meeting of the tripartite committee — something Turkey continues to reject.

High-ranking Syrian sources had stressed to AL-HAYAH that Damascus would prevent "any change in Iraq aimed at incorporating it into a regional order led by Israel." And that any change in Iraq "is an Iraqi affair." This is in the knowledge that diplomatic relations between Damascus and Baghdad have been frozen since the end of the seventies because of Iraq's attempt to harm Syrian internal security.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Denies Meeting With Rabbani

LD1112220895 Tehran IRNA in English 2152 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Dec. 11, IRNA — The Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Afghanistan today denied reports that its leader Golboddin Hekmatyar had met with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

An informed party source said told Radio Peyam-e Azadi (Message of Freedom) that Hekmatyar during the past two weeks was in the Haji region of Paktia Province. The source denied the news that he met Rabbani and worked out certain agreements with him.

Recently, following the meetings of representatives of the Afghan Government with some members of the Afghanistan Coordination Council, such as Hezb-e Eslami, it was said that Rabbani and his Former Prime Minister Hekmatyar had reached an agreement to launch a joint offensive against the controversial Taleban militia.

These days members of the Afghanistan Coordination Council are engaged in meetings with the main warring sides, the Afghan Government and the Taleban group, but apparently without any result.

In the meeting presided over by Haji Keshmiri Khan, head of the Press Bureau of the Hezb-e Eslami and attended by some senior party members such as Qutbuddin Helali, the head of the party's Political Committee, the condition of Afghan refugees in Pakistan who are facing lots of difficulties was reviewed.

Khalili Declares Amnesty in Controlled Areas

LD1112120795 Tehran IRNA in English 1153 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Dec. 11, IRNA — 'Abdolkarim Khalili, one of the leaders of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami (Islamic Unity Party) has declared general amnesty in the areas under his control. In an interview Sunday [10 December], Khalili who controls Bamian Province and Hazarehjat region, said those who have repented of their past deeds and joined the party can return to their homes and lead their normal life. Those who return under the amnesty decree should guarantee that they would not embark on any action that are agaist the interest of the Afghan people in the future, he said.

Thousands of Afghan families have been displaced since the fall of Bamian to Khalili faction, with some fleeing to Kabul. Khalili said that his group favoured a government in Afghanistan which safeguards the rights of all groups and tribes and which is backed by the Afghan people.

Accusing the government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani of being against the will of the Afghan nation, he said that Rabbani should learn a lesson from the former communist government ruling Kabul.

Khalili also called on all Afghan groups opposed to the Kabul government to launch a joint military operation to bring a government acceptable to all beligerent parties to power in Afghanistan.

Dostam's Forces Gain Territory in Samangan

LD1112151695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dara-ye Suf in Samangan Province has come under General Dostam's control after the defection of Rabbani's supporters to the National and Islamic Movement of Afghanistan [NIMA]. In an interview with a correspondent of the news unit of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran's external services, a NIMA representative in Mashhad said: In the course of the sporadic fighting in Dara-ye Suf over the past few days, a number of Afghan government commanders and forces under their command joined the NIMA. The NIMA representative added that after the defection of those forces, the fighting has ended in Dara-ye Suf now.

Taleban Commander Killed in Government Air Raid

LD1012181295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A commander and 27 men of the hireling Taleban were killed yesterday during the government's war planes' bombing. Quoting sources of the armed forces, a BAKHTAR correspondent reported to us that yesterday the war planes of the Air Force bombed the enemy concentrations and fortifications in Chahar Asiab after the Taleban's rocket attack on Kabul. As a result a Taleban commander and 27 of his men were killed.

According to another report a Taleban's supply convoy, which was moving from Logar to Chahar Asiab, was attacked and destroyed. The BAKHTAR correspondents who have visited the front line write that the Islamic army units enjoying high combat morale and readiness are ready to fight the aliens' agents. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Fighting Continues Between Government, Taleban

LD1112173395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Heavy weapons exchanges and fighting between the Afghan government and the Taleban forces which started early yesterday evening is still continuing. According to a report by the Central News Unit, during last night's attack at least 20 katyusha rockets and heavy weapons' shells landed next to Khwajarawash airport, east of Kabul, [Kabul international airport]. But Afghan government sources have given the number of rockets and shells that landed in the east of Kabul as 80. Hospital sources said there were no casualties during last night's attack.

Meanwhile, an Afghan Defense Ministry source said: The Taleban group was intending to mount an attack last night after moving its forces to the frontline and mounting heavy weapons' barrages between Rishkhor and Khayrabad. The attack failed as a result of the Afghan government forces' heavy firing. The government sources insisted that last night the Afghan government planes heavily bombarded the Taleban positions on the battlefield in several sorties.

Yesterday the Taleban group claimed that it repulsed an Afghan government attack in the south of Kabul. But the government sources denied the claim.

During the Afghan government air attack on the Taleban positions 43 members of the group were killed or injured. According to western news agencies, the Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman said: During yesterday's government air strike on a Taleban training base in Chahar Asiab south of Kabul 28 Taleban were killed and 15 others injured.

Our correspondent in Peshawar has sent us this report about the recent situation in Kabul.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Yesterday the government war planes made three sorties and heavily bombed the Taleban positions in Charasyab. Government sources in Kabul say that 30 people were killed as a result of the bombing and a large number of others injured. Government sources also say that the Government had received intelligence reports about unusual Taleban movement so they bombed them in order to prevent their attacks on Kabul.

On the other hand, the Taleban sources say that yesterday they fired several rockets at Khawajarawash Airport and inflicted heavy loss of life and material on the government forces.

The Defence Ministry sources say that yesterday, the Taleban hit Kabul with 16 rockets which caused no damage.

A Taleban spokesman, Nur Mohammad Saqeb, told news agencies that Charasyab was bombarded but the damage was inflicted on the local people rather than the Taleban.

In the meantime, yesterday the High State Council held a session under the chairmanship of President Borhanoddin Rabbani. According to Radio Kabul, during the meeting satisfaction was expressed with the recent advances by the government forces. On the other hand, Sadeq Abu-Nafisa, adviser to Mahmoud Mestiri, said in his address to a three-day seminar on human rights violations in Afghanistan that, despite the fact that the UN has not been successful in restoring full security to Afghanistan, it has advance well in this respect. The time when Afghanistan will be enjoying peace is not far off.

He said that Human rights are widely violated in Afghanistan and the Afghan groups should resolve their problems peacefully. Dr Abu-Nafisa added that foreign interference in Afghanistan must cease. He also stressed the issue of respect for women's rights in Afghanistan.

Mr. Abu-Nafisa expressed the hope that very soon a broad based government will be formed in Afghanistan which will represent all Afghanistan in terms of religion, tribe, and provinces. [end recording]

Taleban Launches Artillery Attack in Kabul

Three Killed in Attack

BK1212091295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0844 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, Dec 12 (AFP) — Three people, including two civilians, were killed and two others injured Tuesday [12 December] when Taleban militiamen launched an artillery attack on the besieged Afghan capital, witnesses and defence sources said.

The two civilians were killed instantly when the first of a salvo of about five shells rained down on a city centre street at about 10 a.m., while a third man — an army officer — died in the same blast, witnesses told AFP.

The lower half of one of the dead civilians had been completely vapourised, leaving only a pool of blood and a smattering of body parts scattered on the road.

"The shells came in as the poor people of the city were walking in the streets on their way to get provisions for the winter days," said Humayoon, a security guard

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

at the deserted Italian embassy near where the three pedestrians were killed.

The other four shells fell in nearby areas of the war-torn capital, but caused no reported casualties, hospital staff said.

Although defence sources claimed the Taleban militia was responsible for the attack, no independent confirmation of who was responsible was immediately available.

The Taleban launched a barrage of 40 rockets on the war ravaged capital late Sunday, the defense ministry officials said.

But they said the rockets landing in the wake of a government offensive on the Taleban positions in Rishkhor, five kilometers (three miles) south of Kabul, fell in a non-residential district near the city's airport, causing no casualties.

The Taleban, led by Islamic religious students, are besieging Kabul from three sides and have vowed to topple President Borhanoddin Rabbani's government and enforce Islamic law in the country.

Government Buildings Hit

LD1212102895 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Dec. 12, IRNA — Three Afghans were killed and two more wounded when five Katyusha rockets were fired over Kabul, the Afghan capital, at 10 a.m. local time on Tuesday [12 December]. The Taleban forces were reported to have launched the rockets, hitting the compound of the Kabul radio and television building, a high school, the Ministry of Statistics as well as the compound of Afghan presidential headquarters.

On Monday, the Taleban sent several rockets to Kabul which, according to unofficial sources, wounded or possibly killed five and inflicted damages on residential regions.

India

Kashmir Government Denies Rescue Operation

BK1112145095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government has clarified that security forces have not undertaken any operation to rescue the four kidnapped foreign tourists in the Kashmir Valley as it may endanger their lives. An official spokesman denied the claim of the militant outfit Al-Faran that three of the abducted foreign tourists have been taken away by the Army during a recent operation. The spokesman added that the responsibility of the hostages rests with Al-Faran. An Army spokesman described the recent encounter in a village Dabran, in Anantnag District, in which one militant was killed and three militants of the outfit were arrested as a routine anti-militancy operation. The identity of the killed militant was known only after interrogation of the arrested militants.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has appointed a commission of inquiry to probe into the recent assault on the former chief minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, at Rajaori. Retired district and sessions judge Mr. Udaybir Singh will head the one-man inquiry commission.

Minister Discusses Pakistan-Sponsored 'Terrorism'

BK1112153995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government today expressed its firm resolve to take all necessary steps to counter Pakistan-sponsored transborder terrorism. The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said New Delhi has strongly conveyed to Islamabad that such action, including its support to narcoterrorism, is totally unacceptable to India. This is also in violation of the Simla agreement and the internationally accepted norms of interstate conduct.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Mukherjee said New Delhi is also aware that Islamabad is operating camps in Pak-occupied Kashmir and Afghanistan, besides in its own territory, to give training to carry out acts of terrorism and subversion.

Tajikistan President Arrives on Official Visit

Views Islamic Fundamentalism

BK1112092895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rakhmanov, arrived in New Delhi this morning on a four-day official visit. He was given a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House].

Later, talking to newspersons, Mr. Rakhmanov said Islamic fundamentalism is a major problem in the Central Asian countries. He said such forces who tried to capture power in Tajikistan were rejected by an overwhelming majority of the people through democratic means.

Our correspondent reports that the two sides are expected to sign a trade agreement and one on Foreign Office consultations. A joint venture in pharmaceutical products has already become operational. Tajikistan has

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

vast resources of coal, oil, cotton, and aluminum that could form part of the bilateral trade.

Addresses Ties, Afghan Issue

BK1212035895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Tajikistan are to sign several agreements for boosting bilateral cooperation today. The agreements are in the economic, scientific, and cultural fields. The visiting Tajikistan president, Mr. Rakhmanov, who had a meeting with the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, yesterday, felt that the agreements will further strengthen the close cooperation between the two countries. The two countries have called upon all countries in South Asia to condemn terrorism, including killing of innocent hostages.

Speaking at a banquet given in honor of President Rakhmanov of Tajikistan in New Delhi last evening, the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said external interference is reaching dangerous proportions in Afghanistan. Fundamentalist forces are trained, financed, and armed by outsiders who have abandoned all sense of restraint. Dr. Sharma also appealed to all concerned to work for a peaceful settlement, fulfilling the wishes of all sections of Afghan society.

Minister Optimistic for Indian Ocean Rim Bloc

BK1212092995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of state for commerce, Mr. P. Chidambaram, has urged the countries in the Indian Ocean region to use great degree of sensitivity and caution in developing the Indian Ocean rim. He was inaugurating a two-day meeting of the Indian Ocean rim consultative business network in New Delhi today.

Mr. Chidambaram expressed optimism about the emergence of an Indian Ocean rim bloc, but cautioned against hasty steps keeping in view the diversity of the countries in the region.

Thorium-Based Nuclear Unit Planned for Madras

BK0812160895 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 28 Nov 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Madras, 28 Nov. It has been decided to set up an experimental nuclear reactor [sodanai reediyilana anu ulai] called Gamini, which can generate 30 kilowatt electricity, at Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant in Madras. This information was given at a function in Madras by A.N. Prasad, director of Bhaba Atomic Research Center of Bombay. Mr. Prasad further said that the material U-233, which is segregated from thorium, will be used as basic element in this experimental nuclear reactor. Thorium is abundantly available in Kerala and Orissa. Therefore, it has been decided to set up the new nuclear reactor using thorium.

The government is also thinking as to whether thorium can be used for other purposes in the country's nuclear power projects.

Satellite Placed in 'Second Intermediate Orbit'

BK1012084995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The INSAT-2C satellite has now been successfully placed in second intermediate orbit. Another orbit raising operation was carried out this afternoon with the Master Control Facility at Hassan by firing the liquid apogee motor on board the satellite. It took about 29 minutes and 30 seconds to put the satellite in the intermediate orbit. From now on, the satellite will remain within the radio visibility of the Hassan center continuously.

A press release of the Indian Space Research Organization issued this evening says the precise orbit determination will be carried out over the next two days before the third orbit raising maneuver slated for Monday [11 December]. All systems on board are functioning normally.

Article Views Plane Program, Need for Success

BK0512074095 Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Dec 95 p 12

[Article by N. Gopal Raj: "Many More Miles To Go"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On a fine, rather warm afternoon in mid-November, the first prototype of India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft [LCA] rolled out of its hangar in the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's factory in Bangalore. The roll-out is a milestone in the LCA's development, more so considering the scepticism the programme evoked within the country and abroad.

The history of the LCA goes back a decade and a half. The Indian Air Force [IAF] issued an Air Staff Target for an LCA study in 1981. The project was finally sanctioned by the Union Government in July 1983. The Aeronautical Development Agency [ADA] was formed to manage the project in 1984 and the IAF finalised the Air Staff Requirements laying out the specifications which the LCA would have to meet in 1985. The feasibility study and the project definition was completed in 1989.

The LCA was intended to be a relatively low cost, highly manoeuvrable fighter capable of holding its own

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

when it entered squadron service, originally estimated to be in the mid-1990's. Some very advanced technologies, which the country did not possess, were needed for such an aircraft. Since these technologies could take ten years or more to develop, the original intention was to buy components and, if need be, subsystems. When the LCA project was cleared in 1983, it was expected that such imports would form about 55 per cent of the value of the aircraft.

But, in actual practice, the import content of the LCA will be only about 25-30 per cent, though the prototypes with the imported U.S. engine will have higher import content (about 40 per cent). Involvement of foreign companies has been principally as consultants, rather than as suppliers of entire sub-systems as originally envisaged, according to informed sources. Instead, national teams were set up to pool all the expertise available within the country for the development of the carbon composite wings and the flight control laws (which are at the heart of the fly-by-wire system). All the on board computers are Indian as well as much of the avionics. The radar and the aircraft's suite of electronic countermeasures are indigenous. Steps are also being taken to indigenise critical components and to reduce the import content in the aircraft.

Until the indigenous Kaveri engine under development is really proven it is the engine which could be the LCA's Achilles' heel. The first few prototypes of the LCA are expected to fly with imported General Electric [G.E.] F404-F2J3 engines and India has bought some 11 engines from G.E. for the purpose. This would have the advantage of testing the airframe with a proven engine. The current schedule is for the Kaveri to be ready by 1997 and to fly in the third prototype the year after.

In an article on the LCA, the aviation journal INTERAVIA pointed out, "the one thing more difficult than designing an advanced new combat aircraft is to design an equally advanced, new engine for it". Dr.S.R.Valluri, former director of the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) and the first director general of the ADA, agrees. Engine development is 5 to 10 times more complex than airframe development, he says. At the press conference after the LCA roll-out, Dr. A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, Scientific Adviser to the defence minister, said two engines were running on the test-bed at the Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) which is developing the Kaveri.

There are, however, reports that these engines are giving nowhere near the performance required. This kind of setback is normal in any high-technology development effort and the issue is how quickly these problems can be ironed out. What is therefore disquieting is the view of some experts that the Kaveri's problems cannot be easily sorted out.

"The development of the multi-stage high pressure compressor is what sorts out the men from the boys," said one of them. "There is so much unstable dynamics involved that even the most modern computer simulation tools cannot accurately predict what happens with just a single stage compressor, let alone a multi-stage one. Even experienced groups require 7 to 10 years to test and perfect the high pressure compressor, carefully matching each stage to the previous one." He believes that the Kaveri would be ready only some time during the next decade at the earliest.

The experience with the HF-24, which was designed by the Germans for HAL in the late 1980's, shows what can happen without a suitable engine. The HF-24 was designed around an engine then under development abroad. When this engine was not available to India, the HF-24 was fitted with a variant of an Orpheus engine being produced within the country. As a result, the HF-24, which was designed for supersonic performance and compared well with contemporary fighters in its concept, never fulfilled its promise. The GTRE, which sought to increase the thrust of the Orpheus engine, succeeded in proving an engine on the test-bed. But the engine size had increased in the process, and the HF-24, when modified to accommodate the engine, did not deliver the improved performance desired. If the British had permitted export of the Rolls Royce RB 199 engine, it would have put the HF-24 in the class of the Jaguar which India later bought, says Dr. Valluri.

If the LCA were to enter squadron service with an American engine, the United States will be in a position to dictate terms to India. The possibility that a front line fighter can be grounded by foreign embargoes has serious national security implications. Licensed production, assuming that the United States is agreeable, may not improve matters, for many critical components have often to be imported. Until the Kaveri actually flies in the LCA and gives the required performance, the engine will remain a source of worry.

The most immediate concern of the LCA project team will be to get the fly-by-wire system proven. Since this technology is difficult to master and highly safety critical, the original intention was to get the entire fly-by-wire (FBW) system from an experienced foreign company. Sources say that the foreign companies were unwilling to supply the entire system. In any event, a national team was set up to develop the flight control laws. These flight control laws are used by the on board computers to keep the aircraft in stable flight and to carry out any manoeuvres required. The foreign

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

companies, Lockheed Martin and British Aerospace, were used as consultants and reviewed the flight control software. Lockheed Martin also helped the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) design the hardware for the FBW system.

The flight control software has been put through different simulation trials on the ground. It has also been tested in flight on a NT-33 aircraft in the United States, and will be subjected to more rigorous flight tests in a modified F-16 aircraft next year. But the real test of the FBW will begin when the LCA starts flying next year. FBW systems are so complex that even experienced groups have had problems. The U.S. F-22 and Swedish JAS-39 prototypes have crashed because of problems with the FBW system.

"We should expect one or two LCA prototypes to crash," says Dr. Valluri. "But this should not stop the programme. The important thing is to have more prototypes ready so that flight testing resumes quickly."

Doesn't the involvement of foreign companies in the development of the FBW give other countries critical information about the LCA's performance? Senior ADA officials disagree. No single foreign agency has the total information, they say. Further, the limiters in the control law which do not allow the pilot to take action leading to the aircraft going out of control has not been disclosed to them. Other sources point out that knowing the LCA's radar frequencies and electronic countermeasures would be of greater use to an enemy than knowledge about the aircraft's performance characteristics.

One of the proud achievements of the LCA programme is the extensive use of advanced carbon composites which already account for about 40 per cent of the aircraft's structural weight. The intention is to raise the proportion to 60 per cent by using carbon composites for parts of the fuselage currently made of aluminium-lithium alloy.

Although the carbon composite wing was designed by a national team, the composite skins are produced to Indian specifications by Alenia of Italy. The skins are then attached to the underlying wing structure. ADA sources said that these skins would also be made within the country from next year after a suitable autoclave had been set up.

As the Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul, remarked on the occasion, the LCA's roll-out is only the first milestone and there have to be many more before the aircraft is inducted into the Air Force. There will undoubtedly be problems but it will be necessary to persevere. "The LCA programme must succeed. Otherwise we shall have to close down all aeronautical activity in this country," says Dr. Valluri.

Official Discusses Missle Program Development

BK1212101395 Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Dec 95 p 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India's missile development programme was "keeping to its schedule" and the country was fully prepared to meet any possible threat to its sovereignty, Dr. Abdul Kalam, Scientific Adviser of the Minister for Defence, asserted today.

Dr. Kalam's comments came during an informal talk with reporters here who wanted to know the status of India's missile development programme in the light of new weapons systems being acquired by Pakistan.

Dr. Kalam, considered the architect of the country's missile development technology, however, parried a question as to exactly when "Prithvi," India's surface to surface missile, would be deployed in her arsenal. "Prithvi" had been accepted by the "users" (Indian Army) and "we are going ahead with the next step," he added.

Earlier, inaugurating the 14th national conference on internal combustion (IC) engines and combustion, Dr. Kalam said the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) had resolved to take giant strides towards the country's self-reliance in defence by planning a ten-year profile (1995-2005) to achieve indigenous production of 70 per cent of components in various weapons systems from the present 30 per cent.

"The day you are a designer, you are a winner," he said and called upon research scientists to contribute to an integrated development of system design. Referring to IC engines and main battle tank (MBT), Dr. Kalam said the combustion phenomenon should address to the environmental conditions such as desert where the machine had to perform under varying temperature.

Iran

U.S. 'Propaganda' on Defense Spending Assailed

NC1212081795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 12 Dec 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its latest report, London's International Institute for Strategic Studies examines defense spending by the Middle East countries in the current Christian year and assesses their military

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

inclinations. The report states that the Islamic Republic of Iran has the lowest military budget in the region, while the small country of Kuwait and the Zionist regime are first and second on the list of countries with the highest military budgets.

Many experts are criticizing the United States' propaganda on Iran's military plans. Looking at the reality in Iran and U.S. propaganda, political experts attribute the defeat of U.S. policies regarding Iran to their not matching the reality in Iran.

After the victory of the revolution, Iran faced extensive plots. An eight-year war was imposed on it, necessitating Iranian defense efforts. But the United States tried to portray Iran as a threat to regional countries. It started to implement its policies by constantly emphasizing that Iran was trying to acquire greater military strength. These U.S. efforts pave the way for a U.S. presence in the region and are designed to prevent Iran from extending its relations with regional countries. They also ensure another U.S. objective—pushing the compromise process ahead and including the Zionist regime among the Middle East countries.

By portraying Iran as a threat, the United States is trying to downplay the threat of the Zionist regime among the Arabs and thus pave the way for relations between the Arabs and Israel. This comes when a report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London has found that, among the Middle East countries, the Zionist regime—with its military budget of nearly $7 billion—is the country focusing most attention on the military field, the country considered to be a true threat to the region.

Political experts believe that Iran spends so little on defense it cannot be seen as a threat. They thus regard U.S. propaganda as an effort to terrify the small regional countries so that they might gain a market for their arms and place militarism in Israel under pressure and the expansionist policies of this regime. [sentence as heard]

U.S. Efforts To Limit Bosnian Influence Addressed

LD1112123595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 11 Dec 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a time when there are less than three days left before the official signing of the Bosnia peace agreement at a meeting in Paris, western circles, especially White House officials, are continuing their efforts, by laying the groundwork for achieving peace and reaching a final agreement, to increase their political credentials in the bid to solve the Balkan conflict and to seize the initiative in the peace efforts to the exclusion of everyone else.

Toward this end, yesterday, Al Gore, the U.S. vice president, stressed that the United States rules out any role for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Bosnian peace process. He emphasized that country's military support for the Bosnian government. Al Gore's remarks which follow the visit to former Yugoslavia made by Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. envoy to that region, are an indication of that country's efforts to obtain security guarantees from the Bosnian government with regard to the protection of the lives of NATO soldiers, as well as to prevent the strengthening of the position of Islamic countries in the peace process in that region — in addition to using it for domestic propaganda purposes.

Al Gore, who described any role for Iran in the final stages of the peace as being disruptive to any balance of forces within the framework of the Dayton peace accord, has asked the Bosnian government to avoid the participation of Iran in supporting the Muslim army of Bosnia. To put this more precisely, the efforts of the White House to prevent Iranian influence in Bosnia are a reaction to the prevailing opinion in that country's congress, faced as it is with the new circumstances of having to make a decision about sending U.S. soldiers to Bosnia.

The opposition of the congress to the dispatch of U.S. forces to the region before the establishment of the required security conditions has already created a new preoccupation for White House officials. For the U.S. President, the submission of this proposal to the Congress and the response, whether positive or negative, given by the latter's members, the majority of which belong to the opposition Republican Party, is seen as a political maneuver. In other words, if the Republicans oppose Clinton's peace proposal and, consequently, the dispatch of U.S. soldiers to the region, the U.S. President will find himself faced with a wave of propaganda from the peaceseekers and, if they agree with it, they will have endorsed the competence and success of their rival party.

It is in these circumstances that Clinton is trying, by removing the superficial obstacles to the dispatch of U.S. troops to Bosnia, to place the Congress in a weaker position. It is clear that the imposition of U.S. demands — with regard to the expulsion of relief forces from Islamic countries from the region — on the Bosnian government is equivalent to the imposition of that country's foreign policy domination over the independent sovereignty of Bosnia — which is not too different from the quest for mastery pursued by the Serbs during three years of war in that country.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Despite the hostile stance adopted by the United States, the Islamic Republic of Iran has never harbored any wish to disrupt the peace proposal for that region and, while considering the peace proposal to be fragile, it will, in solidarity with Bosnian leaders, support any decision which the Muslim government of that country chooses with regard to the peace proposal. Without a doubt, the viewpoints and interests of the United States are not the factors that determine the behavior of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bosnia. The experience of the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the people and government of Bosnia, in terms of publicity and moral and material assistance, throughout the three years of war in that country have, rather, shown that our country's nation and government will continue to be — whether at times of unequal battle or during peace — the true friend and supporter of the Muslim nation of Bosnia.

Islamic World's Role in Bosnian Accord Viewed

NC1212090295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 12 Dec 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 23d session of foreign ministers and heads of delegations of the Islamic Contact Group yesterday met to coordinate their participation at a joint session of the Islamic and Western contact groups in Paris. An Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] delegation will attend the Paris session, which will be held on Thursday [14 December] to follow up the Dayton peace accord and put the final signature to the accord.

The Western Contact Group agreed that the Islamic countries could attend the signing ceremony in the hope of gaining the Islamic countries' financial aid to help rebuild the former Yugoslavia. But the Islamic countries' active and collective participation in the various phases of the Bosnian peace pact is designed to play a constructive role in future developments there.

The Islamic countries' big efforts to defend the long-suffering Bosnian nation have been one of their major priorities in recent years, especially within the Contact Group, and they have been relatively successful. Parallel with other international forums, the United Nations and the Western Contact Group, the OIC has witnessed every development in Bosnia; now it is trying to formulate and implement its strategy in accordance with the interests of the Muslim Bosnian Government and nation in every phase of developments in that republic.

Despite all these efforts, international society has not reacted suitably to the Islamic Contact Group's efforts, because of some Western powers' considerations and political interests. Thus, this time too, the Islamic Contact Group will probably defend the interests of the Muslim Bosnian nation more seriously and more sensitively at the Paris session and, by influencing the political consultations at these joint sessions, will display the true grandeur and power of the Islamic world.

Velayati Interviewed on OIC Meeting, Bosnia

LD1112134295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Dec 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent at the meeting of foreign ministers of OIC countries in Guinea on 11 December — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] On the fringe of the 23d meeting of foreign ministers from the member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], which is being held in Guinea, the foreign ministers from the countries belonging to the OIC's contact group are to meet this afternoon to examine the latest developments in Bosnia. We are with Mr. Velayati, the honorable foreign minister, and I would like to ask him to tell us about the decisions taken at the meeting so far, as well as about the session that is going to be held this afternoon on Bosnia-Herzegovina. Please, Mr. Velayati.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First, I would like to convey my greetings to the honorable listeners of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I have to say that the decisions that have been taken at the meeting have not yet been finalized. The decisions can only be implemented if they are approved and endorsed at the final meeting of the ministers. However, important issues relating to the world of Islam — including Bosnia, Palestine, and Afghanistan — were among the topics discussed and debated. Restructuring the OIC or, to put it in other words, reassessing the situation of the OIC — something that was studied by a group of experts who will present a report to the meeting — is one of the other issues that will be discussed at the final meeting.

As to the OIC meeting that is to be held at 1600, I have to say that the main aim of the meeting will be to establish coordination between Islamic countries and prepare them for the meeting due to be held in Paris on Wednesday [13 December].

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Head of Judiciary: No Political Prisoners

LD1112125895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Head of the Judiciary Mohammad Yazdi today, on the anniversary of the International Declaration of Human Rights, announced in an exclusive interview with our correspondent: There are no political prisoners in Iran and no-one has been detained and imprisoned on account of their political beliefs.

The head of the Judiciary explained: There are a limited number of individuals in Iran's prisons who have committed some offenses because of their particular beliefs and have, as a consequence, violated the rights of other people.

He said: The number of prisoners and the facilities at their disposal in the Islamic Republic of Iran is not comparable to other countries. [video shows prisoners sitting with sewing machines in front of them, chanting slogans and giving salutes with their fists, sitting by a pool, and eating with wives and children in gardens]

The head of the Judiciary referred to the transformation of some of the prisons into cultural centers in different provinces, especially in the province of Tehran. He said: In Iran, prisoners benefit from the support of a government organization, which in addition to providing them and their families with various facilities, also gives them technical and professional training and teaches them to read and write, so they may be able to take up a new life — free from misconduct — at the end of their prison terms. Yazdi referred to the change of the UN special human rights envoy and said: He can come to Iran to study the situation; the country's judicial system is prepared to place all the facilities at his disposal. Yazdi added: Our expectation from the new UN representative is to reflect realities in Iran as he finds them, without being influenced by political pressures.

The head of the Judiciary also described the legal situation of religious minorities in Iran and compared their freedom in Iran with their situation in other countries. He added: The leaders of Iran's religious minorities have said explicitly and repeatedly that the freedoms given to the religious minorities by the Islamic Republic of Iran are not comparable to the situation in other countries.

Libyan Official Seeks Closer Relations

LD0912144695 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec 9 (IRNA) — Libyan Secretary for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation Isa 'Abd-al-Kafi in Tripoli on Saturday [9 December] called for Iran's participation in his country's projects related to desert eradication and implementation of mechanized irrigational systems.

He made the request in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Tripoli Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Reza Nuri-Shahrudi.

The Libyan minister added that Tehran-Tripoli relations should broaden in various fields.

He also voiced his country's readiness to remove any possible obstacle in the way of investment by the Iranian private sector in Libya's agricultural projects.

The Iranian ambassador underlining Iran-Libya good relations, expressed Iran's interest in taking part in libya's development projects.

'Abd-al-Kafi is to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran in the near future to sign several cooperation agreements in the field of agriculture.

French Firm To Work on Completion of Airport

LD1012180095 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA — A French company will contribute to the project for completing the prestigious Imam Khomeyni International Airport here, announceed an official source on Sunday [10 December].

Deputy Minister of roads and Transportation, 'Ali Shahcheraghi, who is also head of Iran's aviation organization told IRNA that the french commpany 'I.D.P.' consulting engineers is to ink a dlrs. 12 million agreement.

The company succeeded in winning the contract ahead of two other foreign companies from Canada and Holland.

The agreement comes at a time the US Congress and Administration are busy trying to intimidate and discourage European and other companies from doing business with Islamic Iran.

The aviation official noted that the first phase of the Imam Khomeyni International Airport would be put into operation in 1997.

Country To Receive Russian Submarine Next Year

LD1112203795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The deputy commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army has said

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iran is not endangered by any military threat from any Persian Gulf states.

Admiral 'Abbas Mohtaj has told the Keyhan Hava'i weekly, published in Tehran, that the Islamic Republic of Iran will receive its third submarine from Russia next year, adding that preservation of peace and security in the Persian Gulf will serve the interest of all regional countries.

The Iranian official has described the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf a threat to the security and peace of the region, adding that at present about 50 foreign carriers and military vessels have been stationed in this region, mostly from America.

Admiral 'Abbas Mohtaj concluded by saying Iran has always favored establishment of peace and security in the Persian Gulf region.

Increase Seen in Nonoil Exports to Central Asia

NC1012082595 Mashhad EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY in Persian 2 Dec p 2

[From the "News Service"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The director general of Khorasan customs, Mast 'Ali, has announced: In view of government policy and new laws, nonoil exports to Central Asia dropped temporarily by over 50 percent. Since Iranian traders can now obtain imports from Central Asia and, similarly, contractors can procure them more easily, nonoil exports have risen favorably.

He stressed: Nonoil exports to Central Asia are now on the level they were before new customs regulations were announced.

Commenting on recently introduced customs concessions for producers of export goods, he said: Customs formalities are now completed on the site where the industrial goods are produced, encouraging producers to export, while reducing the losses incurred by exportable goods during loading and unloading at the customs checkpoint. This has also reduced sundry unforeseen expenses.

He added: Representatives of the standards organization, agricultural quarantine, and transport officials have been stationed at the Mashhad customs point to facilitate trade in this area. Special customs teams are now at Mashhad airport handling customs for passengers of the 35 foreign flights that arrive in Mashhad every week, without any problems.

Conference Held on Caspian Sea Oil, Gas Resources

Oil Minister Urges Cooperation

LD1012124395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An international conference on Caspian Sea oil and gas resources opened in Tehran this morning in the presence of a group of oil and environmental officials and experts from the five countries bordering the Caspian Sea.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the conference, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i described the Caspian Sea region as the world's second largest source of oil and gas after the Persian Gulf. He stressed the need to draw up a comprehensive and coordinated policy and strategy for expanding the oil and gas fields in that region which meets the approval and fulfills the interests of all the littoral countries.

He also spoke of the need for all Caspian Sea countries to draw up a suitable legal regime and called on these countries to cooperate through the exchange of information, the transfer of technology, the attraction of foreign investment, and the guarantee of security in the region.

Some 250 domestic and international experts on oil, gas, and environmental affairs are taking part in this international conference, which will continue until noon tomorrow, aimed at examining the prospects for exploiting the oil and gas resources of the Caspian Sea and for regional cooperation toward such things as environmental protection.

Details Nation's Intentions

LD1012134895 Tehran IRNA in English 1319 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA — An international oil seminar titled Prospect of Oil and Gas in the Caspian Sea opened in at the Foreign Ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies, with a speech of Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i.

The oil minister said in his inaugural speech that the Caspian Sea and its littoral states owned a considerable percentage of the world's entire oil and gas reserves in such a way that some observers considered the region to be next only to the Persian Gulf.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i said a number of factors are responsible for the region's special situation, such as the strategic situation of the Caspian Sea, enormous resources of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

hydrocarbon, regional disputes, and the competition between the superpowers to shape the region's economic mechanisms.

"Iran intends to develop the oil and gas resources of the region while preserving the environment and meeting the growing international demands for oil and gas," Aqazadeh-Kho'i said.

Enumerating Iran's vast facilities for promotion of cooperation with other regional countries, he said at present the Islamic Republic possesses best facilities to facilitate the transport and export of energy from the Caspian Sea littoral countries to international markets.

Iran's oil minister said the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to put all it facilities at the disposal of the Caspian Sea littoral states to export their energy to world markets. "This is a political decision made by our government," he said.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i stressed that transportation of energy through Iran is the cheapest, most suitable and least dangerous way for the Caspian Sea littoral states that Iran can play a key role in connection with the export, import or transit of energy products of the Caspian countries.

The minister said the common cultural, economic and technical bonds shared by the Caspian Sea littoral states required them to have such cooperation with one another.

He noted that ignoring such an enormous potential for regional cooperation and paying too much attention to foreign factors over the past few years have served to slow down the pace of oil and gas development projects in the region.

He cited the formulation of a comprehensive policy and strategy for development of oil and gas fields in the region, the launching of a meaningful regional cooperation, reliance on regional forces and resources, attention to economic principles and not political ones and protection of environment as factors essential for rapid development of oil and gas fields in the Caspian Sea.

Voicing the Islamic Republic's readiness for expansion of regional cooperation, the oil minister said "our economic link will definitely guarantee peace and security of the region." "Domination of foreign factors [words indistinct] is detrimental to all of us," he added.

The two day seminar, attended by foreign and domestic experts and officials, has been co-organized by the Institute for International Studies on Energy affiliated to the Oil Ministry and the Foreign Ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies.

Nation Said 'Logical Passage' for Gas, Oil Exports

LD1112102695 Tehran IRNA in English 1001 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA — Two English-language dailies Monday [11 December] editorialized on the situation of the Caspian Sea and its littoral states. Referring to the conference on oil and natural gas prospects in the Caspian which began work in Tehran, IRAN NEWS quoted analysts as saying that the Caspian Sea is next to the Persian Gulf from the point of view of oil and gas reserves.

Commenting on the reserves of oil and gas in the Caspian Sea littoral states, it stated that they hold 16 percent of oil and 53 percent of gas reserves of the world. The bulk of energy resources is surely beyond the domestic needs of these countries and exporting part of these reserves will greatly increase their foreign exchange earnings, the article said, adding such an income will be a great help for the newly independent northern republics which are suffering from ailing economies.

It underlined that in order to better utilize these riches and secure the short-term and long-term interests of the littoral states, a well-balanced and comprehensive regime for the Caspian Sea is mandatory. The next step is to carefully study the extent of resources and capabilities of the coastal countries as well as the exploitation and export of these reserves in the best manner and with minimum expenses, the daily stressed and added that in doing so, it is essential to preserve the living environment and the rich aquatic species of the sea and the health of the population surrounding that landlocked body of water.

"Iran which borders the Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan republics to the north and 11 other countries to the east, west and south including oil-rich Arab states, can serve as a bridge between the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf which are the two major energy producing regions in the world," the paper reiterated.

On the other hand, it stated, by possessing an efficient nationwide pipeline that stretches to many oil terminals at the Persian Gulf, Iran is the most logical passage for the oil and gas exports of the nearby states to the world at large, particularly to the far east and southeast where consumption of oil and gas is ever on the rise.

"Meanwhile Iran's vast experience in the exploitation, production, refining and transfer of oil and gas can be easily used by neighboring states," it said, "thus, Iran can be the best partner in hydrocarbon projects in the Persian Gulf."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

IRAN NEWS stressed that it is therefore necessary to launch a series of well-contemplated plans within the framework of the organization for cooperation of Caspian Sea littoral states in order to expedite the activities in the region, remove the obstacles in the way and better utilize the resources available in the Caspian Sea. "Surely such a coordinated drive will contribute to the economic development of the member countries and provide favorable grounds for capital investment in the region," it concluded.

Another daily, the TEHRAN TIMES, also commented on the natural resources in the sea saying that the littoral states will be able to play an important role in the world energy market. As stability and security are the most important factors required for meaningful cooperation, each littoral state should behave in a responsible manner in order to enhance the spirit of collective cooperation for regional development, it wrote.

If the regional countries overlook basic rules of collective cooperation in the name of national interests, it will become difficult for all regional countries to explore the resources of the region, it stressed. "Such a situation, on one hand, will lead to conflict among the regional countries and, on the other, pave the way for foreign interference," the paper underlined: consequently, all the regional countries will have to bear the brunt of a single country's foolhardiness.

It is therefore incumbent upon all littoral countries of the Caspian Sea to collectively oppose any littoral state which decides to swim against the mainstream of regional cooperation, it noted.

"All littoral states should spare no effort in determining the legal regime of the Caspian sea which would play a crucial role in a ground for regional cooperation, it suggested.

The TEHRAN TIMES concluded by saying that until the legal regime is decided upon, no country is entitled to take a unilateral decision.

Khamene'i Urges 'Reconstruction' in Qom Address

LD1012135095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Thousands of combatants from the city of Qom met His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, this morning. At the meeting, the leader spoke of [adherence to] revolutionary stances and divine values and unstinting and all-encompassing efforts toward reconstruction as the two main duties of the Muslim nation of Iran and, in describing the conspiracies of the world of arrogance against nations, he said: Today, blatant colonialism is no longer effective and the enemies of humanity try to pursue their wicked aims through cultural and political influence and by using economic levers. However, Muslim nations, under the clear influence of the Muslim nation of Iran, have now awakened and they no longer permit [foreign] powers to interfere in their domestic affairs.

Today, the words of the late eminent Imam [Khomeyni] about the formation of Basij [mobilization of the oppressed] cells throughout the world have been realized and nations draw strength from the steadfastness and greatness of the Iranian nation, extending the battle against oppression.

Ayatollah Khamene'i added: The enemies of Islam and the oppressive powers know very well that, in order to check the ever swelling wave of Islamism among nations, they must find a cure for their main problem, that is, the Islamic system [in Iran] so that some people in Iran will renounce their past aims. However, God be praised, the Muslim nation of Iran is standing firm today and is proving at every step of the way that the path followed by this nation during the past 17 years is correct and in keeping with the demands of logic and reason. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Khamene'i said the following about the importance of the task of reconstruction: If a nation chants revolutionary slogans but fails to build its own country, the enemy will become bolder in its attacks. God be praised, the Muslim nation of Iran and the country's officials and government are engaged in the task of reconstruction with full strength and wisdom. We must pay attention today to the two factors of reconstruction. Insistence on revolutionary stances and Islamic values will take the Muslim nation of Iran to ultimate victory.

Cabinet Proposes Raising Qom to Province Status

LD1012184495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cabinet has approved a bill to raise Qom to province status. The bill was approved at today's session of the Cabinet, chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Announcing this, Hasan Habibi, the government spokesman, said that the government had decided to raise Qom to province status taking into account the view of his eminence the great leader of the revolution [Khamene'i] and Qom's importance from various cultural, religious, political, and social aspects.

The first vice president added that the assessment carried out had showed that Qom could be raised to province

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

status because of its population and resources and facilities that exist there.

He added that the bill will soon be presented to the Islamic Majles for final approval.

Judiciary Head Comments on Fourth Majles

NC0712192495 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Nov 95 pp 1, 14

[TEHRAN TIMES service report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—Approving infrastructural projects, especially the Second Five-Year Development Plan, the Fourth Majles has bolstered the country's political and economic stability, the head of the Legal and Judiciary Committee of the Majles, 'Ali Asghar Baghani, told the TEHRAN TIMES.

Baghani said that during the Fourth Majles the experts of the Legal and Judiciary Committee have studied about 156 plans and bills, most of which met the Guardian Council's seal of approval.

Elaborating on the committee's future plans, Baghani said the Majles has provided the committee with several bills, all of which have passed the first advisory committee meeting and are now ready to be proposed to the Majles. Once endorsed by the Majles, the bills will return to the committee for the second advisory debate.

He further referred to the 258-point Islamic punishment (Ta'zirat) bill as an important one set forth by the Legal and Judiciary committee, saying that some 240 articles of the bill have so far been passed by the Majles and the rest are on the agenda.

The committee is now working on a new bill on judicial procedure which is due to be raised in the Majles in the near future, Baghani added.

He further said the experts of the Guardian Council maintain that the old law on judicial procedure is not applicable at the present time; it needs some revisions.

The committee was designated to revise the old law, he said, adding that it set forth a 258-point plan which is ready to be raised in the Majles.

In addition, the committee is now working on a lessee-lessor bill, according to which the rights of tenants and landlords will be specified in accordance with Islamic rules, he added.

Asked to comment on the performance of the Fourth Majles, Baghani made a comparison between the Fourth Majles and the previous ones.

He recalled remarks by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, who called the Fourth Majles a combination of politics and morality, stressing that this characteristic has provided law-makers with a calm and peaceful atmosphere.

The Legal and Judiciary committee is the Majles's most hardworking committee which has had 197 official sessions in the presence of judicial experts, said Baghani, adding that during the Fourth Majles, the committee has worked 500 hours on different bills and plans.

In conclusion, Baghani expressed hope for a massive turnout in the next Parliament elections due to be held in February.

Mahdavi-Kani on Islamic Culture, Majles Elections

NC1012211895 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Nov 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The committed clergymen are safeguarding the genuine Islamic culture, and the sharp blade of the attacks by the enemies of Islam is aimed at the clerics.

This was stated by Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani at the monthly session of the Islamic Society of Engineers [ISE].

The ISE public relations office reports [citing Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani]: The statement urging the clergymen to abandon the scene so that their holy posture can be maintained is being heard from the mouth of the United States, and unfortunately some friends are carelessly repeating these remarks, thus granting the enemy more food on which to chew. If such statements were true, the report adds, then the Prophet, peace be upon him and his scion, and Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him, would not have accepted the rule. Such remarks help those who want to gain popularity. But the need to carry out duties has nothing to do with popularity.

Mahdavi-Kani said: That clergymen should remain in political and executive positions does not mean that there should be no experts. Why should the clergymen go?!

He added: The alert and ever-present-on-the-scene clergymen will prevent a reoccurrence of the type of incidents that took place during the Constitutional Movement when religious figures were helped to achieve victory but were then set aside by deceivers.

We believe, he continued, that the weapons should be in the hands of the pious and that the clergymen should guide the people and also undertake the responsibility of management, thus proving their competence through their deeds.

Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani then referred to his resignation from the Tehran Militant Clerics [TMC] and said:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Although I am not the secretary of the TMC, I believe it is necessary to preserve this institution, and I also have special respect for it. I now attend the TMC's Central Council sessions as a member, and I am proud to be a member of this association.

I respect the majority opinion of the Central Council. But this does not mean that I agree with all its decisions or that I necessarily agree with decisions that are approved by a majority vote.

Referring to the fifth term [Majles] elections, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani said: I believe that all the groups and associations should independently put forth their own candidates, and that the TMC too put forward its candidates separately.

He said: Some groups seem to not want to personally participate in the elections. Why should the idea that we want to influence others be created? This way, people can then say that their hands were tied by the TMC. Since we do not believe in monopolizing and patronizing opinions, why should we do something that will give this incorrect impression?

He added: To avoid making such an impression, each group should present its own list of candidates. I stated this view at the TMC session, and it has not been rejected.

At this meeting, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani explained the characteristics of the Majles deputies and said: The Majles elections in Iran are popular elections and the characteristics of a Majles deputy legally differs from the characteristics of an ordinary lawyer or citizen. A Majles deputy has to meet certain criteria, and electing a Majles deputy should also meet certain criteria.

Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani said: On the basis of the Constitution, a Majles deputy is more than the representative of a city or a region. He is the representative of the entire population of Iran; and when a deputy is elected by the people, he cannot be removed from his office for a determined period of time. Actually, he is the legal representative of those people who voted for him.

Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani then commented on how to understand the competence of the Majles deputies and said: The quality of the elections, the quality of the Council of Guardians' supervision over the elections, and the duties of the Majles deputies have been stipulated in Article 30 of the Constitution, which states the characteristics the deputies should have.

He said: The Constitution states that the Majles deputies should have sufficient knowledge of the situation of the country and should also have political, legal, and economic knowledge so as to be able to present bills.

He added: The extent of the deputies' knowledge should be such as to allow them to interpret the law; it is the duty of Majles deputies to interpret ordinary laws, just as it is the duty of the Council of Guardians to interpret the Constitution.

Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani stressed: The Majles has the right to investigate and to carry out minute research; and this calls for the deputies to have sound political and economic knowledge.

He added: Approving international agreements and accords, deciding to use foreign experts or to receive foreign loans, approving decisions on handing over state properties, and questioning or impeaching ministers are among the duties of Majles deputies; the candidates should be able to undertake such heavy responsibilities.

He recalled: Those who become candidates should consider it their objective to carry out their duties, and they should not try to be elected just for material gain.

He added: The deputies take an oath at the inauguration of each term that they will safeguard Islam, the gains of the Islamic revolution, and the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran and that they will be the true defenders of the country's freedom and independence, will work to elevate the country, and will defend the rights of the nation.

He recalled: Although the competence of the deputies is confirmed by the Council of Guardians and the people vote for them, their credentials should be approved by the Majles since a Majles deputy is a matter of loyalty and not of proxy.

Stressing the need to respect the law, he said: The philosophy behind the formation of the Majles and approving laws and God's decree is that we will respect the law so that each person will know where he stands.

Mahdavi-Kani continued: It would have been much better if those who became candidates in the cities had gathered together and decided who was the most competent among them, while the rest stepped aside. [passage omitted]

Officials Address Upcoming Majles Elections

Need for Political Parties Stressed

NC1012161995 Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian 29 Nov 95 p 4

[Report on interview with Dr. 'Ataollah Mohajerani, vice president for legal and parliamentary affairs,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and Engineer Bahonar at Tehran University's medical school; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Ataollah Mohajerani and Engineer Bahonar were interviewed on the fourth Majles and the elections for the fifth Islamic Majles at the Tehran University medical school.

During the interview hosted by the Islamic association of the University of Medical Sciences in Tehran, 'Ataollah Mohajerani and Engineer Bahonar stressed the need for the formation of political parties.

Engineer Bahonar said: Without parties or factions with well-defined opinions, policies, and a cohesive program, the parliamentary system is without the qualification of efficiency.

He said a cohesive parliamentary institution was a necessity and added: The government, due to its structure, is fundamentally cohesive but cohesion is lacking in the Majles because the deputies' viewpoints are so far apart.

Regarding the need to improve the administrative structure of the Majles, Engineer Bahonar stressed a need to create a deputies' think tank. On the role of technocrats in the country's political future he said: The technocrats themselves are not opposed to values. This is only an issue when they give priority to science over religion.

On the disruption of a session at the Tehran University technical college he said: Sometimes only concepts are discussed; sometimes only action is discussed. Physical approaches are condemned; no group has the right to act this way.

Engineer Bahonar added: A physical approach is not acceptable under any circumstances. If those responsible for it are dealt with, we would welcome it. In any case, the country's thinkers usually present a one-sided view of the situation, and this should not be done. The issue should be investigated from all sides.

He said it would be favorable if there were a coalition of groups and factions on the eve of the elections and said: Closeness among factions is welcome.

Dr. 'Ataollah Mohajerani also stressed the need for the presence of parties in the country's political arena and said: Running the country would be extremely difficult without genuine political parties having clear political stances. He highlighted the presence of a decadent despotic culture in the country—the result of 2,000 years of monarchical rule—and added: Even though the despotic monarchy has ended, the culture it generated has not been obliterated entirely.

Mohajerani attributed an attack on a book store because it carried a particular book and a clash during a university speech to manifestations of the same despotic culture.

The vice president for legal and parliamentary affairs also discussed the role of technocrats in the country's future and asserted: We do not compromise with those who consider technology as the basis instead of ideology; however at the same time we do not think that we subscribe to the Western concept of technocrats in Iran.

Regarding the participation of various groups who have not yet received their Interior Ministry permits, he said: These groups have not been officially recognized as they do not have their permits from the Interior Ministry. However, they can nominate candidates for the Islamic Majles elections and their qualifications must be endorsed by the supervisory committees of the elections.

On the possible presidential candidates, Mohajerani stated: There is no doubt that in the presidential elections suitable and competent candidates will be nominated; Dr. Habibi is one such suitable candidate.

He also mentioned Nateq-Nuri as another candidate for this post and added: Campaign fervor will heat up when the top-notch figures join.

Active Participation Urged

LD1112150195 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA — Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri on Monday [11 December] called on all individuals and groups to actively participate in the forthcoming parliamentary elections to be held in March. In a meeting with a group of clerics in Shahr-e-Rey, a town in southern Tehran, he urged all eligible groups to introduce their candidates for the next parliamentary polls. The participation of all groups and individuals in the next parliamentary elections would lead to the massive turn-out of people in the polls, he said.

Nateq-Nuri said no special political groups is given priority in the next elections "but what is important is the massive turn-out of people and the high number of votes they will cast."

Elsewhere in his speech, the Majles speaker said the warm welcome extended to the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i last week by people in Qom was a decisive response to the propaganda campaign of enemies attempting to make the Iranian people lose their confidence in officials.

The Majles speaker also paid a pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Hazrat-e 'Abdolazim.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Presidential Committee to Monitor Majles Elections

LD1112201895 Tehran IRNA in English 2008 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec 11, IRNA — Head of the Presidential Inspection Committee for Majles Elections mohsen Hashemi said here today that because President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is concerned about healthy conduct of the forthcoming Majles elections, the committee would keep him accurately and immediately informed of the latest developments.

He said hundreds of election inspectors would collect information during the polls and the same would be channeled to the Presidential Inspection Committee.

Hashemi said the committee would make sure that government facilities would not be exploited for unlawful purposes during the elections and that unlawful practices would not be adopted.

He said the committee started its work more than a month ago, and added that as long as the laws are respected and complied with, the rights of Majles candidates and electors would be safegurded.

Law on Women's Equal Political Participation Urged

LD1112113395 Tehran IRNA in English 1106 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA — Majles deputy, Ms. Maryam Behruzi reiterated the equal social rights for both sexes raging [as received] from education to the highest levels to management posts despite sex differences and the necessity to have laws to safeguard these rights. Speaking to the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES published Monday [11 December], she said, "we need law to guarantee women's equal participation in political affairs with men, laws to guarantee the health of women, keeping in mind their special physical condition and the special conditions they have to go through during their entire lives."

On the number of Iranian women members of parliament and their degrees of specialization, she said there are nine Iranian female deputies in the Majles, three of whom hold phd's, two ba's one bs, an ma, an ms and one of them has completed the highest level of theological studies.

"The present number of women at Majles is twice as many as the previous term, while the total number of female parliament members in the world has decreased from 13 percent to eleven percent," she noted.

About 44 percent of the people who go to the ballots for polling their votes in Iran are now women, according to statistics, she said adding, the same statistics show that women's population is four percent lower than men's, and that means almost half of the voters are women, which is a very good figure, keeping in mind that women have been present in all the scenes of the revolution.

Referring to various political activities of Iranian women such as establishment of political parties as well as being members of leadership cores of some parties, Behruzi stated, "this situation is the fruit of intellectual as well as political growth of our society, political will of the government and the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and also the high esteem women enjoy in our country."

Official Sees Increased Steel Production Capacity

LD1012103595 Tehran IRNA in English 0614 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec 10 (IRNA) — The managing director of the National Iranian Steel Company (Nisco), 'Ali Shekarriz, announced that 3.8 million tons of melted steel has been produced in the past eight months, 2.466 million tons of which were finished products.

He added that some 400 to 500 thousand tons of steel products would be exported to obtain the raw materials required in the domestic market.

The present capacity of the Esfahan Steel Mill is 2.42 million tons while Mobarakeh Steel brings out 2.45 million tons of finished products and Ahvaz Steel has an output of 1.5 million tons.

On enhancing the capacity of steel production in the second five- year plan, he said production capability would be increased by nearly 2 million tons with the expansion of the Esfahan and Ahvaz Steel Mills as well as the commissioning of Khorasan Steel and Mianeh Foundry.

"By the end of the (second) five-year plan, steel production capacity will reach 10 million tons," Shekarriz divulged.

Pakistan

Minister Denies Report of U.S. Bases in Country

BK0912122695 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Dec 95 pp 1, 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Dec 7 (PPP) — Foreign Secretary Najmuddin A Sheikh has categorically said that there is no question of providing air bases to United States of any other country on Pakistani soil.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He was talking to reporters here Thursday [7 December]. The Foreign secretary when asked to comment on a Radio Moscow report that the US intended to set up its military base in Azad Kashmir, he strongly denied the report saying that "this is totally baseless and untrue."

Radio Moscow had quoted well-informed sources in New Delhi as saying that the US intended to set up military base in Azad Kashmir to supervise situation in India, China, Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics.

It had further stated that the American military representatives had visited the area several times during the last few weeks and held discussions with Pakistani authorities to set up a military air bases in the region.

Responding to a question about Bangladesh government's reaction on Pakistan's decision to deport illegal Bengali immigrants from Karachi, the foreign secretary said that the action was being taken in Karachi against all the illegal immigrants without any discrimination. "There are two million illegal residents in Karachi," he said and added that "of those a large number of people were Bengalis."

The main idea behind the ongoing action was that all the illegal immigrants should return to their respective countries," Najm said.

It may be recalled that Bangladesh had on Tuesday sharply reacted to Pakistan's decision to deport Bengali immigrants unless they could prove they were legal residents.

Demanding repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh, Dhaka had made it clear that if deported Bangladesh government would not accept the Bengalis.

He said the Pakistan enjoyed very close and friendly relations with Bangladesh which were growing with the passage of time.

Replying to yet another question, he strongly denied Afghan President Prof [professor] Borhanoddin Rabbani's allegation that Pakistan was providing military assistance to Taleban. "We have never supplied even a single bullet or a gun to Taleban," he emphatically said.

UN Observer Group Member Expelled for 'Espionage'

BK1212093695 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 12 Dec 95 p 1

[Report by Umer Farooq]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The government has decided to expel a civilian member of the United Nations military observer group for India and Pakistan (UNMOIP), along with his wife on charges of espionage, The Frontier Post learnt through official sources. The report was later confirmed by a foreign office official.

Sources said that the UNMOIP member and his wife were involved in espionage for a hostile country and they were caught red handed. The member, J.J. Richards, who works in the UNMOIP headquarters in Rawalpindi has been given 30 days to leave.

Richards is a civilian member of the 40-man UNMOIP team monitoring the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir, which is the longest in the world. Official sources said that the wife of Richards was using the diplomatic cover enjoyed by her husband to do espionage for a hostile country. However, the official sources were reluctant to give details of charges against the couple from New Zealand.

Official in the foreign office confirmed the expulsion of the couple. However, they were reluctant to give details of the events which compelled the government to order the expulsion of the couple from New Zealand.

By virtue of their mandate, the military observer group, monitoring the LoC, have access to some sensitive information and their duties include the gathering of military intelligence data from both India and Pakistan. High UN officials place heavy premium on the impartially of the UNMOIP.

Indians refused to provide any information to UNMOIP long ago and had in fact made the members of the military observer group hostage as they were neither allowed to move freely in held Kashmir nor allowed to go near the Indian side of the LoC.

The UN military observer group has been stationed in Pakistan and India since the cease-fire in mid 1949, when they fought their first war over Kashmir. After the Karachi agreement the LoC was demarcated by military teams of India and Pakistan under the UNMOIP supervision.

It is pertinent to mention here that immunity enjoyed by the diplomats under international law bars the host country from arresting any of them even when involved in illegal activity.

Search Continues for Embassy Blast Accomplices

BK1112154595 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 11 Dec 95 p 12

[Report by Imtiaz Hussain]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar — Following the arrest of Ahmad Saeed, the alleged financier of Egyptian

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

embassy bombing, by the banking circle of FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] in Peshawar, the law enforcing agencies have launched a witch-hunt against his accomplices Khalid and Abu Abdullah.

It may be mentioned here that the federal interior minister, Maj. Gen (Retd) Nasirullah Khan Babar, had claimed arrest of Ahmad Saeed but the name of the accused was kept secret.

The Frontier Post learnt on good authority that Saeed alias Abu Abdur Rehman, the director of Human Concern International Peshawar, was traced by the FIA near Pak-Afghan border while he was reportedly crossing over to Afghanistan.

According to sources, the preliminary investigation revealed that Abu Abdullah and Khalid were also involved in terrorism with Ahmad Saeed.

Khalid, an Egyptian national and fiance of daughter of Saeed, has reportedly reached Saudi Arabia whereas Abu Abdullah is nowadays residing in Khost (Afghanistan). At the time of crackdown on Arab nationals by the government to flush out terrorists, both Khalid and Abu Abdullah were staying with Saeed his residence in University Town.

The security agencies have tightened nose around and Afghan national whose name could not be ascertained, following the information that he was also in league with the aforementioned accused. A massive hunt for the Afghan national is on and even the tribal areas were searched to nab him.

The FIA recovered a video cassette and photographs of Ahmad Saeed with Afghan leaders and a politician of Peshawar from his (Saeed's) office during a raid. Sources said that FIA also took into possession the secret documents from Human Concert International. Ali Nawaz, the administration officer of the said office was also arrested. Both the accused Ahmad Saeed and Ali Nawaz have been shifted to Islamabad for further investigation.

Sources informed that the FIA with the help of ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] arrested Three more Arab working for islamic World Bank, and NGO working for Afghan orphans. They were arrested on Wednesday [6 December] from Hayatabad. All the three Arabs were later shifted to islamabad for further investigation.

Minister Said in Philippines for Embassy Bomb Suspects

BK1212094595 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Dec 95 p 12

["Staff Report"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Dec 11 — Federal Minister for Interior Gen (Retd) Nasirullah Babar has gone to Philippines in pursuit of the suspects involved in the Egyptian embassy bombing in Islamabad, said a reliable source.

Interior Ministry officials told this correspondent that during his three-day official stay in Manila Gen Babar would hold meetings with Deputy Interior Minister of the Philippines who was also in charge of the police department. FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] Additional Director General, Rehman Malik along with some other officials including explosive experts are accompanying Gen Babar.

Interior Ministry sources said there were reports that those suspected of masterminding the suicide bombing of the Egyptian Embassy, have Manila connections. There were unconfirmed reports that some suspects who were found to have links with Egyptian militant groups were recently arrested by Manila police.

Gen Babar after three-day official visit to the Philippines is scheduled to go to Malaysia. His stay there would be private. The Interior Ministry officials are tight lipped about the activities of Gen Babar in Malaysia. He is expected to return on Dec 21.

Bhutto Expresses 'Determination' for Karachi Peace

LD0912150395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has expressed her government's determination to restore peace in Karachi. In her message to a function arranged for the allotment of industrial plots near the Hab River Road this morning, she said the government is implementing an over 121 billion rupee development package to solve various problems of the city. The prime minister said this important project of the cottage industry would provide employment opportunities to 120,000 people of the city. She said it is the basic responsibility of the government to ensure that deserving people are given their due rights. The government allotted the 200-square-yard plots through balloting. She hoped that the Small Business Finance Corporation and the Sindh Small Industries Corporation would provide loans to these allottees so that they could establish small industries. The administrator, Karachi Municipal Corporation, Faheem

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Zaman Khan, told the function that the Karachi Municipal Corporation has prepared 12,000 cottage industry plots of 200 square yards in three zones, namely (?Landi), (?Urangi) and the Hab River Road. He said the Karachi Municipal Corporation is also preparing a plan to construct 2,500 small low-cost flats to provide shelter for about 500,000 people.

Official Reports 6 Killed, 7 Injured in Karachi

BK1012165495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to a press note issued this evening by the DIG [Deputy Inspector General], Police, Karachi, six persons were killed and seven others injured due to firing by unidentified persons in the city today. One rickshaw was also set on fire by some miscreants.

Daily Views 'Revenge' Factor in Karachi Killings

BK1112110095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 Dec 95 p 14

[Editorial: "Now it is Altaf's Brother"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After the assassination of the Sindh Chief Minister's brother, allegedly by MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] militants, the killing of Altaf Hussain's own brother and nephew, allegedly by a raiding party of a government agency, has sent a wave of horror throughout the country. Both the Rangers and the Sindh Police have denied any hand in it but the suspicion that the latest killing may have been prompted by a desire for revenge, persists. When the Sindh Chief Minister's brother was killed in cold blood near his home, the fear that the stakes had wittingly or unwittingly been raised so high that reprisal killings could follow, were being expressed in many quarters. In both cases, the victims have been male relatives of top leaders, one a Sindhi, the other a Mohajir. In both cases, they were government servants, not involved in politics, and in both cases they were made to pay a horrible price for what their brothers were doing. While in a sense these gruesome murders are the continuation of the same grisly practice of sending gifts of corpses of innocent people to Nasirullah Babar, in this case the danger is that it will become a personal vendetta between two powerful leaders. Both have family members living in Pakistan whose lives would be in grave jeopardy, unless a deliberate decision is taken to end the blood feud here and now. And in taking this decision, the debate about which side started it in the first place, is not important. Playing this game of murders and counter-murders, regardless of who started it, or whether Nasirullah Babar or anyone else is responsible for it, must end. This is not to say that the MQM protests are not justified, but further loss of innocent lives is clearly not in the MQM's own interest, regardless of the provocation. If they have wanted to demonstrate their ability to strike at will, it has already been demonstrated. They do not have to go on a language in prove if any further. While ethnic violence committed to curb terrorism or counter, what is alleged to do, state terrorism, needs to be condemned, because in one case it denies fair trial to the accused and in the other case it takes the lives of innocent people, violence hurts the MQM cause more than it hurts the government. The group killings of Pathan and Punjabi labourers have already bred among Punjabi and Pathan circles a sense of alienation to Mohajir cause, part of which was being supported earlier. Even the repeated calls for strikes in Karachi, though acceptable in a democratic polity, tend to erode support among MQM sympathisers themselves because they hurt the poor more than the rulers. Mr Dehlvi's statement justifying armed struggle against the state and Mr Altaf Hussain's conditional forecast that geography in Pakistan could change, have also not helped the MQM cause. It is time both the MQM and the government leadership searched their hearts and mutually worked out something that helped those they claim to serve and not harmed them in the cruelest possible way. Their anger and hate against each other is now crossing all limits. They should not allow that to inflict mortal wounds on themselves.

Protests Over Murders of MQM Chief's Relatives

Government Accused of Responsibility

BK1212095595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 Dec 95 pp 1, 10

[PPI report]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Karachi (PPI) — The SHO [Station House Officer] of Gulberg Police Station on Monday [11 December] evening went to 90-Azizabad at 7:30 pm and received the complaint on behalf of Altaf Hussain against the murder of his elder brother Nasir Hussain and his nephew Arif Hussain.

The complainant has alleged that President, Prime Minister, Gen (Retd) Nasirullah Babar, Provincial Governor and Chief Minister, Sindh were responsible for the murder.

Earlier, Senator Ishtiaq Azhar went to the Gulberg Police Station accompanied by Sardar Ishaq, Advocate, to lodge an FIR [First Information Report] against the killing of Nasir Hussain and Arif Hussain but the SHO Gulberg allegedly refused to register FIR. MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] alleged Nasir Hussain and his son, Arif Hussain were arrested by Rangers and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

police from their Gulberg residence on December 4 and 5 and were taken to unknown place.

The bullet-riddled bodies of brother and nephew of Altaf Hussain were found in a bush near Gadap about 40 km from Karachi.

The Edhi ambulance staff along with MQM leaders, on receipt of information, rushed to the spot and brought the bodies to Karachi.

The MQM leaders, Senator Ishtiaq Azhar, Shoaib Bukhari, MPA [Member of Provincial Assembly] and Deputy Leader in the Sindh Assembly and other central leaders of the Movement, meanwhile, have appealed to the President, Prime Minister and Chief Justices of Pakistan and Sindh High Court to personally intervene to save their lives.

A group of high police officials met Senator Ishtiaq Azhar, who is also the convener of MQM Coordination Committee, at 90-Azizabad. Other MQM central leaders were also present on the occasion. There reviewed the arrangements made for Namaz-e-Janaza [funeral prayers] and funeral procession. [passage omitted]

Security on Alert at Funerals

BK1112133395 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The law enforcement agencies in Karachi, including the police, Rangers, CIA [Crime Investigation Agency], and concerned local administration, were directed to take immediate and on-the-spot action to counter any possible terrorist activities in the city on the occasion of funeral of Nasir Hussain and Arif Hussain tomorrow.

MQM Reduces Strike to 2 Days

BK1112093195 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Dec 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, Dec 10 — The MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] which had called for a three-day strike to protest against the alleged killings in official custody of Altaf Hussain's brother and his nephew, has modified its programme, and reduced the strike period to two days.

The strike will continue tomorrow, but there will be no strike on Tuesday [12 December] a party announcement here said Sunday night. Tuesday will be the normal working day. However the party appealed to people to attend the funeral of Altaf's brother and nephew in Azizabad in large number.

That means that peace in city will hinge delicately on the handling of the situation by government or by the MQM itself.

Strike Observed in Karachi

BK1112152495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A strike was observed in Karachi today on the call given by Altaf Group. Business activity and traffic remained restricted. Altaf Group has withdrawn the strike call for tomorrow.

A partial strike was observed in Hyderabad. Main markets remained close. However, small business activity was noticed in all parts of city and Latifabad. According to a press note, exchange of fire took place between some armed persons and law enforcement agencies this morning, during which one person was killed and another injured.

Minister Comments on Elections, Karachi Deaths

BK1012145695 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of state for law and justice, Mr. Raza Rabbani, has categorically contradicted a news item published in a section of the press today regarding midterm polls offered by the government. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said it is, in fact, a part of the opposition's orchestrated campaign to destabilize the political system and weaken the important institutions of the state:

[Begin Raza Rabbani recording] I would like to make it abundantly clear that there is no question of midterm polls for the simple reasons that in any democratic country or in any parliamentary form of government, it is the government of the day that takes the decision as to when it should go to the polls. And our government is of the firm view that in order to ensure stability of the system, in order to ensure the supremacy of parliament, in order to ensure continuity and in order for the system to grow, in order for the democratic institutions to blossom it is imperative, it is necessary that at least one assembly sees its full term out. [end recording]

Condemning the murder of the brother and nephew of Altaf Hussain, Mr. Raza Rabbani expressed the apprehension that those elements who are against any rapprochement between the government and Altaf Group may be responsible for this act of terrorism and for the murder of the brother of the Sindh chief minister.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Opposition Leader Rejects Talks With Government

BK0912100295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Opposition leader Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has rejected the prime minister's offer of dialogue. Talking to reporters in Lahore yesterday, he said the country is faced with an economic crisis due to the government's policies.

Further on Rejection of Dialogue

BK0912144395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 9 Dec 95 pp 1, 4

[Report "From Our Correspondent"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Opposition Leader Nawaz Sharif has rejected Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's invitation for a dialogue and said that she had herself closed the door for cooperation by rejecting their earlier unconditional offer on Karachi issue, by victimizing Opposition and pursuing anti-state and anti-people policies.

He said this while talking to the newsmen at his Model Town residence on Friday [8 December].

Opposition had offered Benazir Bhutto constitutional package, proposals to uproot corruption, end to horse-trading and to settle Karachi issue but the Government did not respond, he added.

He said government has put all its energies in victimizing Opposition. He said Benazir government has destroyed national institutions including judiciary and Parliament.

Nawaz said in these circumstances how they can cooperate or accept offer for a dialogue from a government which has no concern with the country.

He said to get rid of Benzair government is in the larger interest of the country and the nation. He said their struggle is for the country and not for personal gains.

Commenting on economic situation, he said government lacks the ability to handle the worsening situation.

He said how a government can put the country on the path of prosperity which could not even perform better in political, financial, economical fields, failed to improve law and order situation or uproot corruption.

He said the government has lost the confidence of masses, traders, law years, and all sections of the society. He said only those could be happy with this government who had brought it to power and not the people of Pakistan. He said 'these are the facts and Benazir could not conceal these facts even by imposing censorship on the newspapers.'

To another question about the arrival of Moin Qureshi, Mehboobulhaq and Shahid Javed Burki, Nawaz Sharif said are they magicians and added that their advice will create more problems for Benazir. He said government's policies had already destroyed the economy and blocked the industrialization.

He said Benazir has cheated the nation by claiming that the government has signed MOUs worth $20 billion and in the prevailing situation who will take risk to invest in Pakistan.

To another question about the one year extension in the service of the Chief of the Army Staff, said government should not propagate this issue nor extension should be given in this way. He said rulers should avoid playing politics in Army and urged the government not to treat the Army in a way which creates disappointment in its ranks.

Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Waheed may be given some assignment after retirement if the government wants to take benefit of his services, said Nawaz. He said settled issues should not be reopened.

Nawaz said though President Sardar Farooq Leghari had used Article 234 twice in Punjab and NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] but he was optimistic that Leghari will prefer country and Army's interest while taking decision about new COAS [Chief of Army Staff]. He hoped that Leghari will take this decision on merit.

Commenting on Benazir's ire on Press, Nawaz said national Press is writing the truth and they are not doing this on his instigation. He said it is the reaction of government policies and if the government will do good and perform well then why the Press will write against her government.

He said Press is reporting the truth and Benazir is threatening it by imposing ban on advertisements and freezing their bills.

He said through such fascist steps Press could not be stopped to write the truth.

He said if Benazir wants to improve her credibility then she should remove flaws and errors in her policies and advised her to avoid blaming the national Press.

Responding to a question about Ameer Jama'at-e-Islami Qazi Hussain's recent statement of cease fire with Muslim League, Nawaz said in past Qazi had made similar announcements but he did not honor his words and in his statements and speeches used objectionable language against Muslim League and its leadership.

He said they always kept their words and he also like people of similar nature. However, they will see the new

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

cease-fire announcement made by Nazi Hussain, added Nawaz.

Sri Lanka

President Rules Out Cease-Fire With LTTE

BK1112160495 Hong Kong AFP in English 1558 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Dec 11 (AFP) — Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga Monday [11 December] ruled out a ceasefire with separatist Tamil Tigers, saying her government had done "the maximum" and it was now up to the rebels to come for talks.

Kumaratunga met with nine minority Tamil parties late Monday, her first such meeting since the military took full control of Jaffna town, the former rebel bastion of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

She asked the Tamil parties to encourage the LTTE to lay down arms and come to the negotiating table, telling them the government had "done the maximum" (in seeking peace) and now the Tamil rebels should do the same.

There was no immediate response from the Tamil leaders.

Tamil sources said Kumaratunga promised she would press ahead with her peace package and present it to a parliamentary select committee soon and expected Tamil legislators to encourage the Tigers to negotiate with the government.

"I expect others to take half the risks that I take," Kumaratunga was quoted as saying by a Tamil politician who was at Monday's meeting.

The Tamil parties had asked Kumaratunga to declare a ceasefire and enable displaced people in the embattled northern Jaffna peninsula to return home.

The president also reiterated that the Tigers had first broken a ceasefire that went into effect earlier this year. "We have done all that any self-respecting government can do," she told the Tamil leaders.

Tamil leaders pointed out that there had been very few civilian deaths in the army's offensive to take Jaffna, but warned that if operations were begun in the rest of the peninsula and on the mainland, there would be many casualties.

More than 50,000 people have died in the LTTE's bitter campaign for a separate homeland in the past 23 years.

Tamil Parties Said Dismayed Over President Stand

BK1212114295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1117 GMT 12 Dec 95

[Report by Quatrina Hosain]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Dec 12 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's minority Tamil politicians Tuesday [12 December] expressed dismay at President Chandrika Kumaratunga's decision to press ahead with a military offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels in the country's north.

"We are unhappy with the decision she has taken, because a resumption of a military operation would mean high civilian casualties," said Murugesu Sivasithamparam, the leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF).

Any new offensive launched by the military would inevitably be in densely populated areas, he added.

Kumaratunga told Tamil leaders here Monday that they should apply pressure on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to agree to a truce and that the government was not willing to initiate any deal with the Tigers.

Tamil politicians who attended a meeting with Kumaratunga Monday said she wanted them to encourage the LTTE to lay down arms and turn up for talks. The government, she said, had "done the maximum" it could to bring peace.

"What can we do? We can only appeal," said Sivasithamparam. "We (the TULF) certainly have no leverage with the LTTE." Sivasithamparam's predecessor, Appapillai Amirthalingam, was assassinated by LTTE gunmen in 1989.

Monday's meeting was Kumaratunga's first with Tamil parties since the army captured the northern town of Jaffna from the Tigers 10 days ago. Jaffna had been the capital of a de facto state run by the LTTE since 1990.

The president has indicated that military operations will continue and the next priority would be to open a land route to Jaffna peninsula through territory currently held by the Tamil separatists.

Tamil sources said Kumaratunga promised she would present her peace package to a parliamentary select committee soon and expected Tamil legislators to encourage the Tigers to negotiate with the government.

"I expect others to take half the risks that I take," Kumaratunga was quoted as saying by a Tamil politician who was at Monday's meeting.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Tamil parties had asked Kumaratunga to declare a ceasefire and enable displaced people in Jaffna peninsula to return home.

Kumaratunga told them that measures were being taken to ensure that Tamils were not needlessly harassed, but pointed out the situation required high security to be maintained.

She said 12 or 13 of the Tigers' hardcore suicide attackers had been arrested at checkpoints. She did not elaborate.

"The president emphasised that the military action was directed solely against the LTTE and that her government distinguished clearly at all times the difference between the Tamil people and the LTTE," a government statement said.

The president said the Tigers had first breached a ceasefire that went into effect earlier this year. "We have done all that any self- respecting government can do," she told the Tamil leaders.

More than 50,000 people have died in the LTTE's 23-year campaign for a homeland it calls Eelam in the country's north and east.

Tamil Politicians Discuss Concerns With President

BK1212113595 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 12 Dec 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga on Monday [11 December] urged Tamil political parties to actively assist the government to resettle displaced persons in and around Jaffna and to gain their support for the government's political proposals, official sources said.

She made this request when she met representatives of Tamil political parties at Temple Trees, her official residence.

Representatives of Tamil parties brought to the notice of the President several problems connected with the living conditions and daily requirements of displaced persons in the North. She informed the delegation about the steps which have been taken to despatch adequate supplies of food and other essential items and alleviate the living conditions of such persons.

The question of the arrest of Tamil persons in Colombo was also discussed in detail. The President, who emphasised the need for security, said that the security forces have been advised with regard to the proper procedure which should be followed in cases where persons are taken in for questioning.

She mentioned some instances when she took immediate remedial action regarding complaints made to her. She requested the delegates to inform her promptly of all allegations of humiliating or degrading treatment and promised that appropriate action would be taken without delay against those responsible.

The issue of the effective implementation of the government's language policy was also discussed. The president outlined the steps taken by the government in this area. Among them were the appointment of Tamil language teachers for Sinhala students (and vice versa) and increasing the number of Tamil translators at government departments.

The delegation stressed the importance of refraining from hurting the sentiments of Tamils in any way in the aftermath of the recent military offensive in the North.

The president unreservedly endorsed this point of view and spelt out the measures which the government had adopted to prevent any affront being made to the Tamil people.

She made it clear that the military action was directed solely against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and that the government distinguished at all times between the LTTE and the Tamil people.

She reiterated the government's commitment to a just a lasting political settlement to the ethnic problem, saying that the devolution proposals in legal form would be presented to the Parliamentary Select Committee very soon.

The President also told the delegation that she would greatly appreciate their assistance in resettling displaced persons in and around Jaffna and in gaining their support for the political proposals once they are placed before the Select Committee.

The representatives of the Tamil parties expressed their willingness to do so when the proposals are placed before the Select Committee.

They thanked the President for giving them an opportunity to make representations on behalf of the Tamil people.

Ministers G.L. Peiris, Lakshman Kadirgamar, Mangala Samaraweera and M.S. Thondaman were also associated with the president.

The political parties represented at the meeting were: Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC), Upcountry People's Front (UPF), Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF),

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

National Union of Workers (NUW), Democratic Workers Congress (DWC), Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) and Democratic People's Liberation Front (DPLF).

Radio on Eastern Offensive by Police Commandos

BK1112122895 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sri Lanka police STF [Special Task Force] commandos from several camps in the Eastern Province launched yesterday simultaneous offensive against LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists, who have stepped up their activities since the fall of their stronghold of Jaffna to the Riviresa [sunshine — name of military operation] troops last week. The commandos, familiar with the vast terrain and backed by the Air Force, mounted offensives on LTTE jungle hideouts in Panama, Maha Oya, and Batticaloa areas, military sources in Colombo said.

The government and the security forces are relentlessly pursuing a military campaign to destroy the LTTE [words indistinct] peace and to protect the country's unitary status, Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte said yesterday. He was addressing a public rally in the hill capital Kandy to mark the historic victory of the Riviresa troops in Jaffna. He said that trained soldiers were mostly confined to bunkers during the previous regime. The soldiers now equipped with all the necessary military hardware are destroying LTTE terrorism.

Moderate Sri Lankan Tamil parties say they will not shift from Colombo to Jaffna in the immediate future despite the fall of the northern rebel stronghold to the government in a military offensive that climaxed last week. Several once-militant Tamil parties have based themselves in Colombo since the LTTE launched a separatist war in the north and east in 1983. Critics have accused the group of failing to represent constituents' interests after years of good life in Colombo. The parties said they had no choice but to leave Jaffna, which had been run as a mini-dictatorship where no difference of opinion was tolerated and the LTTE crushed dissent and killed rebel Tamil leaders at will. Mr. V. Anandasangary, a former member of the Parliament for TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] in Kilinochchi, said on Saturday [9 December] his party was not planning a return to the office it abandoned in Jaffna in 1984. Not eve.. in the nea: future, he said. K. Premachandran, secretary general of EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], said the refugees must return in a conducive atmosphere and that the gove:nment's devolution package for minority Tamils must be implemented before his party would return to Jaffna.

LTTE Said To Remove 'Government Agent'

BK0912105295 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1026 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 9 Dec (LANKAPUVATH) — Dominic, the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's] illegal or shadow 'government agent' of Jaffna has been sacked by the terrorist organisation, heightening further dissension in the ranks of the Tigers.

Senior security sources quoting intelligence reports told LANKAPUVATH Saturday [9 December] that Dominic who was one of the most powerful figures in the LTTE and a favourite of the Tiger leader was removed following Prabhakaran being forced to yield to intense pressure from irate Tiger cadres after Dominic was caught robbing one million rupees [Rs.] of monies collected from Tamil expatriates living abroad.

In addition, Jaffna residents reaching Colombo told LANKAPUVATH that they had to pay bribes ranging from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 25,000 to senior LTTE cadres in addition to the usual 'visa fees' charged by the terrorists, to leave the Jaffna Peninsula.

UNICEF: 'Guerrillas' Enlist Children in Army

BK1212101895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1001 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Dec 12 (AFP) — Sri Lankan security forces Tuesday [12 December] kept up "limited scale" operations against Tamil Tiger rebels, as UNICEF accused the guerrillas of enlisting young children to fight the army.

Security forces are conducting limited attacks against positions of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the northern Vavuniya district and the adjoining eastern province, a military official said.

"The army as well as police commandos are conducting small operations to dominate the areas just outside their camps," a military spokesman said. "These are simultaneous strikes to tie down the Tigers."

There were no reports of casualties in the latest attacks but local officials said the army had fired a barrage of artillery in the northeastern Weli Oya region against suspected LTTE concentrations Monday.

Police Inspector-General W. B. Rajaguru said elite police commandos had joined the offensive in flushing out suspected LTTE jungle hideouts since the weekend but there had been no major confrontations.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The LTTE had stepped up its activities in the island's east after its northern stronghold of Jaffna fell to security forces 10 days ago, after nearly 50 days of fighting which claimed the lives of 2,500 on both sides.

The Tamil Tigers have since ordered a major recruitment drive to force the army out of Jaffna.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said in its newly- released annual report that the LTTE was aiming its propaganda at youngsters to entice them to join guerrilla ranks and fight the security forces.

"A large part of LTTE combatants are children," said the UNICEF representative here, Brita Ostberg. "If the LTTE does not recruit children they will have very few fighters."

She said dying for a separate state is portrayed by the LTTE as a heroic act and financial benefits are showered on the families of children who die in battle. The LTTE has been campaigning for an independent homeland for 23 years.

"In such circumstances, children are left with no alternative but to volunteer," she said, adding in contrast that the Sri Lankan security forces did not enlist anyone below the UNICEF recommended age of 18 years.

Tamil sources said that Tigers had decreed that each family should give one member to join the fighting cadres in a bid to drive out the security forces from the island's north.

More than 50,000 people have died in the LTTE's bitter separatist campaign for a homeland it calls Eelam in the country's north and east.

Displaced Civilians Report on LTTE 'Split'

BK1212113995 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 12 Dec 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Displaced civilians from the North who are now in Vavuniya have told the Defence forces, that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres have split into three groups against the leadership of Prabhakaran. The three groups are: Anton Balasingham, Eastern Province LTTE leader Karikalan and Prabhakaran's 'Saviour' group.

Before the Riviresa [sunshine] operation it is said that Anton Balasingham and his wife Adelai, Newton — LTTE armed forces leader, and Sea Tiger leader Soosai had moved to the Eastern Province.

Those displaced people have said, after the Riviresa operation, the LTTE leader Prabhakaran has refused to meet any other LTTE area leaders, and Prabhakaran is guarded by his faithful 'saviour' group members in the Mullaitivu area. They added, Prabhakaran's change in attitude has led to the division among LTTE leaders.

The 14-15 year old Tiger baby brigade has also been disbanded and they have gone back to their parents. The demand of money from them has also added to the loss of confidence in Prabhakaran by his former colleagues.

Another conflict among Tiger leaders is the separate commemoration of dead Tigers last November 26, where the Karikalan group and the Eastern Province leader Karuna, held separate meetings.

The businessmen who have moved away from Jaffna because of the war, complain that, the LTTE cadres are indiscriminately demanding money, and this too has led to the anti-LTTE campaign.

The sacking of another LTTE leader Balaraj and the killing of his closest comrade Mahendraraja alias Mahattaya, has also contributed to anti-Prabhakaran activities of the 'three split' groups.

This group also accused the LTTE leader Prabhakaran for leading a luxurious life, driving about in Pajero 'Inter-Cooler' vehicles from the funds received by LTTE sympathisers abroad and from others. The displaced residents from the North had said according to Army sources at Vavuniya.

LTTE Releases Leader's Martyrs' Day Message

BK0712064895 (Internet) soc.culture.tamil in English 5 Dec 95

["Press Release" containing LTTE Leader V. Pirabakaran's Martyrs' Day message; released by LTTE International Secretariat on 2 December, place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] My beloved people of Tamil Eelam, Today is Martyrs' Day, a sacred day in which we cherish the memory of our heroes who have sacrificed their precious lives for the cause of the freedom of our nation.

Our martyrs have died for the liberation of this land so that our people could live in our land with freedom, dignity and security. This is our land, the land in which we were born, grew and live, the land which bears the foot prints of our forefathers, the land in which our culture and history are rooted. Our martyrs have died for the objective that this land should belong to us. They have died for the cause of liberating this land from the shackles of alien domination and transforming it into an independent sovereign nation.

In the sacred war of liberating our homeland our heroes have made supreme sacrifices which cannot be

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

described in words. Extraordinary deeds never before happened in the history of the world have taken place in this land, for the freedom of this land. The ideal dream, the spiritual yearning of those thousands of martyrs who have created this heroic legend will be actualised one day.

Today the war of aggression against our land by the enemy has reached a phenomenal scale. Having mobilised all its military power and having utilised all its national resources, the enemy has launched a massive invasion on the Jaffna soil. Our traditional land of ancient historical glory is being systematically destroyed by the enemy's firepower. The intense shelling that rains down unabatingly has wiped out the face of Jaffna. The fundamental objective of this war of aggression is to destroy the economic resources and the cultural heritage of Jaffna thereby uprooting the national life of the people.

This war is not, as the government claims, against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. This war is against the Tamil people, against the Tamil Nation. The objective of this war is to destroy the Tamil Nation. This racist war of Sinhala chauvinism has a long history. It has been going on before the birth of the LTTE. It has started by Chandrika's father. Now, Chandrika's government has given total expression to this racist war. The strategic objective of this war is to annihilate the national identity of the Tamils by destroying their life and property and their land and resources.

Wearing a peace mask and pretending that she was committed to a peaceful resolution of this conflict, Chandrika was able to cheat the Sinhala people and the world and assumed political power. Having taken the reins of power she staged a drama of peace negotiations. We extended our hands of friendship seeking a peaceful solution to the Tamil National question. To promote the peace process, we released the prisoners of war as a gesture of goodwill. During the peace negotiations we neither put forward stringent conditions nor rigid demands. We requested Chandrika government to lift the economic embargo and the restrictions on travelling and to create conditions of normalcy. We requested the government to alleviate the suffering of our people who have been subjected to extreme difficulties without the basic needs of life. But Chandrika government was not prepared to concede even these meager concessions. As the talks prolonged fruitlessly for over a period of six months we realised an important fact - that Chandrika government was not interested in peace nor in a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Since primacy was given to military concerns throughout the negotiations it became very apparent to us that Chandrika regime was seriously considering the military option.

The monumental scale in which the invasion has been launched on Jaffna amply illustrates the politico-military objective of the government. The strategy aims at the encirclement and occupation of the densely populated vital area of the Tamil homeland and to proclaim to the world that Jaffna society is 'liberated'. But this strategy of Chandrika government has turned out to be a disaster since the people of Jaffna city and Valigamam region evacuated the area before the encirclement of the army. This massive exodus has demonstrated the fact that the people of Jaffna, in a unanimous stand, have expressed their opposition to the government war effort and absurd reasons attributed to it. This mass exodus has impressed upon the Sinhala Nation and the world that the Tamil people are no more prepared to be subjected to Sinhala state administration and that the people and the LTTE could not be separated.

Therefore, Chandrika regime has failed to achieve the political objective behind the Jaffna offensive. We are relieved that our people have safely escaped from the military siege and the political trap behind it, yet we are deeply sad about the enormous suffering and pain they are subjected to as a consequence of this mass displacement. It distresses us deeply that our people have had to vacate their traditional villages where they lived for centuries and leave their houses, lands and property and become destitutes. Yet, we consider such tragic experience and suffering as a tremendous contribution by our people to the cause of national emancipation. This mass exodus proclaims to the world that our people are determined to live as free beings with self-dignity and that they are prepared to face any form of suffering to be independent rather than subjecting themselves to the domination of the aggressor.

The Sinhala military devils may hoist victory flags in depopulated Jaffna which has been reduced to rubble. The Sinhala chauvinistic gangs in the South may light crackers in jubilation assuming that they have captured the kingdom of Jaffna. Chandrika may send peace signals believing that military hegemony has been achieved. In these circumstances we wish to make it absolutely clear that as long as the Sinhala army is occupying Jaffna the doors for peace will be firmly closed. The LTTE will not participate in the peace negotiations imposed at the point of a gun subjecting itself to military pressure. This is the message we wish to address to Chandrika regime. It will be nothing other than political stupidity if Chandrika government thinks that it can bring about peace and political settlement by occupying Jaffna and uprooting hundreds of thousands of people. The invasion of Jaffna is a gigantic historical blunder made by Chandrika regime. As a consequence of this act the Colombo government has closed all

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

avenues for peace and plunged the entire island into grave conflictual situation.

There is absolutely no truth in claims made by the government controlled media that the LTTE has suffered heavy casualties and that it has been weakened by the offensive on Jaffna. In the battle of Jaffna, we have neither suffered heavy casualties nor been weakened. It is the armed forces that have suffered more casualties than the LTTE.

We have fought efficiently within our capability against huge military formations with formidable manpower and firepower which advanced along a geographical terrain advantageous to them. Though we fought under extremely difficult and dangerous conditions we did not suffer heavy casualties. Neither our manpower nor our military structure is affected in anyway. The army's strategy to entice us into a conventional war to destroy our manpower did not work. In the battle of Jaffna we faced a set-back. It is a temporary set- back. We faced serious set-back during the Indian military occupation. But we were not defeated. In the end, it was the Indian army which faced defeat. Therefore, today's set-back will turn out to be a victory tomorrow.

Sri Lankan army has over-stretched its feet on the Jaffna soil. It is not a difficult task to conquer territories by mobilising large formations of troops. But it will be a difficult task to hold the territories captured. This is the historical reality faced by the aggressive armies all over the world. The Sri Lankan army will soon learn this historical truth.

Sri Lankan state is attempting to determine the political destiny of the Tamils on the basis of military power. It assumes that it can impose an inadequate solution on the Tamils by military hegemony and territorial aggression. Such a military solution underlies Chandrika's conception of 'war for peace'. Any Tamil with self- dignity will not accept such a solution. To frustrate this government's scheme and to advance our liberation struggle, we are left with only one alternative. We have to strengthen our military structure and intensify our struggle. It is only by strengthening the military power the Tamils could freely determine their political destiny. It is only by strengthening our military power we could live with security; we could gain our lost territories; we could return to our homes as free men.

The task of building the military power of the Tamil Nation has become the inevitable historical necessity today. This is crucial for the survival of the Tamil Nation. Our Nation has been forced into a necessity to struggle for survival. The young generation of Tamils cannot escape from this national duty, from this call of history. Any delay in this task will endanger the existence of our Nation. Therefore, I call upon the younger generation to join our liberation movement without delay. The earlier the youth join our movement the quicker we can achieve the objectives of our struggle.

We call for the support and solidarity of the world Tamil community at this critical time when we are faced with a genocidal war all alone without any external assistance. We appeal to the people of Tamil Eelam living abroad to champion the cause of our struggle and assist us in all possible ways.

On this sacred day when we remember our martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for national freedom and attained historical immortality, let us pledge to commit ourselves to the cause for which thousands of our freedom fighters laid down their lives.

[signed] V. Pirabakaran, Leader, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

(LTTE Leader Mr.V. Pirabakaran's Martyrs' Day message released by LTTE International Secretariat, 211 Katherine Road, London E6 1BU, United Kingdom. Tel / Fax: 0181-470 8593)

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.